# Saipan Tribune Saipan Tribune THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@ saipantribune.com

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 138

## **OPINION METER** This week's poll:

Should drug testing be made mandatory for all law enforcement personnel?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

## INSIDE

## **NATION**



Tsarnaev pleads not guilty in the Boston Marathon ➤ PAGE 20

## **ASIA**



Primitive writing that dates back

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## **OFFBEAT**



A Minnesota town has a 4-year-old boy as its mayor. > PAGE 23

## PSS halts laptop giveaways

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

he Board of Education approved yesterday a major shift in its policy governing its One-Laptop-Per-Child project after finding out that a large number of the laptops given to secondary students in the last four years have either been lost or damaged.



Starting this new school year in September, PSS will stop the distribution of laptops to individual students, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D. Instead, PSS will create a "distributive network" in all schools that will give not only seventh graders but all secondary students access to the laptops all day long.

"We shifted the way that the laptop initiative will be implemented next school year. We will have a distributive network [in all secondary schools], which is going

to be a classroom model," said Sablan.

Each distributive network consists of 30 laptops that will be placed in a cart or in the school library. Each day, this will be roamed around classrooms to give students with no laptops access to the technology. Distributive networks will be based on the school's population, Sablan said.

At Marianas High School, for example, PSS wants to place four distributive networks. which is equivalent to

See PSS on Page 4



## SAT-10 results yield record-breaking outcome

**»** GTC highest

grade levels

in three

By MONETH G. DEPOSA REPORTER

Students in public schools posted remarkable achievements after scoring high in this school year's complete battery test.

Based on the results of the 2013 standardized assessment

test, or SAT-10, which was officially released yesterday to the Board of Education, PSS students showed significant gains in learning, with up to 14 percent growth in cohort and up to 9 percentile gain in per grade level performance.

SAT-10 is a norm reference test that mea-

sures the students' learning in all areas including core content subjects of English, math, science, social studies, and reading.

Public school students in the CNMI took this test in April. For this school year, the national percentile target is 50 percentile.

The tests are usually conducted in grades 3, 5, 6 for elementary schools and among 8th graders in middle school. In high school, the SAT 10 is for grades

According to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., this was the first time the

See SAT-10 on Page 4

## 'No arbitrary use of govt video lottery proceeds'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Despite the existence of regulations allowing the operations of video lottery on Saipan, Gov. Eloy S. Inos assured lawmakers that this

**250 rooms** will not proceed without new legislation that will specify the specific programs, such as the NMI Retirement Fund, that will receive

revenues from it. But even before the administration could finalize

See LOTTERY on Page 4

>> Agulto to cap video

hotels with over

**lottery at 10 Saipan** 

locations, including

Saipan chamber trade delegation off to Guam. PAGE 3 Store's camera helps identify alleged milk thief. PAGE 6

## Local



## Nelson: NMI will have to wait for bundled services

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While Guam residents now enjoy bundled services with Docomo Pacific's acquisition of MCV Broadband, people of the CNMI will have to wait a little longer to

enjoy the fruits of the merger.

Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson, who was the guest speaker in Wednesday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, said the U.S. territory is able to have bundling services a lot earlier than the Commonwealth because it is cheaper there than extending the same service here.

That prohibitive cost of undersea fiber bandwidth between Guam and Saipan, Nelson said, is also the reason why Saipan doesn't get real-time cable TV programming from the mainland.

"Most people look at this merger and the first thing that comes to mind is bundling and they're right! With the products that Docomo Pacific and MCV bring to the table, it was a no-brainer to create and offer bundled services to the general public. After all, the customers will be able to receive more value for the money when they bundle their desired services."

Bundling is now happening in Guam, Nelson said, with Docomo Pacific's Fusion Bundles where TV, mobile, online, and landline plans are available "at a price structure you choose, that best suits your needs!"

In a couple of weeks, Docomo will also launch "HBO Go" that will deliver 1,400 titles of HBO programming via smartphone, tablet, PC, or television.

"There's more...in the next 30 days, Docomo will launch 'Watch TV Everywhere,' a package that will allow subscribers to watch live cable TV programming on their smartphones, tablet devices, and personal computers."

Will these bundle plans and packages be available in the

CNMI? Not at this time, Nelson said, because while undersea fiber bandwidth between the West Coast and Guam is just \$45,000 a month, the same service between Guam and Saipan is a whopping \$600,000 a month.

### No layoffs at MCV

Nelson also told Chamber members that 50 days after they acquired MCV Broadband, Docomo has fast-tracked the process of cross-training their combined staff.

"We have not eliminated any positions, nor do we intend to. Here on Saipan, out of the 37 former MCV employees 12 will be integrated into our retail and administrative functions. The remaining 25 will be absorbed into our network operations center," he said.

The combined company is also bringing its facilities up to speed to accommodate expanded operations.

"Our renovation plans are ongoing at our Gualo Rai location calling for additional retail space and moving our administrative, marketing, corporate sales, accounting, and HR functions to the second floor."

Docomo is also addressing customer convenience by negotiating for two additional locations in Garapan and Susupe.

"This will give our customers even more choices for convenient locations to take care of their wireless and cable TV needs."

Nelson shared that last Tuesday officially marked Docomo Pacific's integration with MCV with a launch event in Guam.

He said NTT Docomo senior vice president Hajime Kii, who spoke at the event, stated that NTT Docomo's primary goal after acquiring MCV Broadband is to offer a broader range of communication products and services to both MCV and Docomo Pacific's customers.

Kii said an additional goal is to further enhance the quality of communications services in the region.





## Saipan chamber trade delegation off to Guam

A trade delegation from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will go to Guam at the end of the month to entice companies already doing business in the U.S. territory to expand to the Commonwealth.

Chamber president Alex Sablan said the delegation will specifically concentrate on franchise groups or franchises in Guam and convince them that the CNMI is a worthwhile business venture.

"We want to focus on franchises that are not currently here that do not currently compete with other brands that we may have on island. We don't necessarily need another fastfood or quick foods restaurant like a McDonald's. Maybe we need a Yogurt Man or things of that nature," he told Chamber members during its monthly meeting Wednesday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The presentation of the Chamber delegation will be on July 31 at the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

Conversely, the Guam Chamber of Commerce will also have a presentation at the local chamber in December.

Aside from Guam, Sablan said that plans are afoot to also send trade delegations to Hawaii and countries in Asia.

"Want to also bring this road show into parts of Asia and make our presentations in their American chambers of commerce there and possibly to Hawaii. There are a lot of Hawaiian franchises that have done well in Guam and would do well I believe in the CNMI. That's why we want also to present to the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce and meet with certain franchise groups to talk about the idea of setting up shop here in the CNMI."

Sablan explained that the basis of these trade trips is a recent Marianas Visitors Authority survey showing that tourists are pining for more American franchise brands on Saipan.

"It was determined that there are not enough things to do here on Saipan or in the Commonwealth per se. By per se it means activities or I guess franchise groups that we can normally see elsewhere but we don't see here like in Shanghai, Beijing, and other cities...they got everything! And Chinese do like American franchises and they do eat well and they do love to go out. Again, we're interested in enticing these types of businesses," he said.

While a trade delegation will leave for Guam at the end of the month, one Chamber member will be leaving the islands Sunday as Melvin Tenorio of Marpac has been transferred to Palau.

"I will be moving to Palau this Sunday. And if any of you guys are down there, feel free to come see me. It's been honor serving in the Saipan

Chamber of Commerce. We company said. have such a diverse group of professionals," the marketing manager of the distributing

Replacing Tenorio at the company is James Lee, who formerly was manager of Safety

1st Systems.

Sablan thanked Tenorio for his years of service to the group and wished him well in his new

challenge in Palau.

"Thank you Mel for serving on the board and you will be sorely missed especially next

year at the next softball tournament. Hope you come back and help us out if you can." (Mark Rabago)



## Judge finds prisoner's petition for habeas corpus meritless

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has found without merit a prisoner's petition for release from custody.

Tydingco-Gatewood denied Minto Minto's petition for habeas corpus yesterday.

The judge also ruled that since the petition raises no legitimate questions, Minto's motion to appoint counsel for him is also denied because "the interests of justice do not require it."

A Superior Court jury in August 2008 found Minto guilty of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and solicitation to commit marriage fraud. The case originated in March 2007 after the defendant allegedly recruited a U.S. citizen to marry an illegal alien for money.

Minto was sentenced to 90 days in prison with 27 days credit for time served. He appealed, but the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed his convictions.

He then filed a petition for habeas corpus in federal court.

In his petition, Minto argued that there was insufficient evidence for his conviction, which amounts to both an unreasonable factual determination and an unreasonable application of clearly established federal law.

Minto also contends that the

Commonwealth marriage fraud statute was unconstitutional and contrary to clearly established federal law.

Third, he argues that the CNMI Supreme Court's affirmation of his conviction after the marriage fraud statute's repeal was contrary to clearly established federal law.

Tydingco-Gatewood agreed.

In her order, the judge said that Minto has not demonstrated

OPA also denied Resources International Management Corp. or RMIC's appeal related to DPW's solicitations for wood chippers

page decision.

The July 8 decision on RMIC's appeal upheld the

Procurement and Supply director's denial of RMIC's protest. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

scores came back very high be-

cause everyone was really worried about it. This is a great year

for us and I am very excited," she told Saipan Tribune, cit-

ing the extra busy schedule of schools and teachers in numerous trainings and other issues.

Sablan said this is why PSS continues to invest in professional developments, trainings, research-based instructional strategies and best practices for

that these work. "I am glad to see the effect of those trainings and collaboration among our schools," she

its teachers because PSS knows

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero congratulated Sablan and the PSS staff yesterday for this great achievement.

'This only shows the great dedication of our teachers despite the insufficient funding we have. We try to work with limited funds and improve student learning. This is an indication that we're moving in the right direction," Guerrero said, adding that BOE will continue to provide teachers the necessary tools so they will be effective an unreasonable factual deter-

She said Minto argues only that the record lacks sufficient evidence of one offense element, knowledge of illegality, and does not point to any evidence the CNMI courts failed to consider.

The judge said the CNMI Supreme Court's ruling is neither inconsistent with nor an unreasonable application of clearly established federal law.

Tydingco-Gatewood said applying the federal savings statute here, Minto's conviction is not abated.

## Church 360 offers free weeklong Bible school

Church 360 will begin their free Vacation Bible School this Monday, July 15, and finish up Friday, July 19. The program is open to children ages 5-12 and will go from 9:30am to 11:30am.

Vacation Bible School, often referred to as VBS is a children's program held by various Christian churches around the world. It is designed to teach children about God and the Bible in a format suitable and easily understandable for children (most commonly in the form of crafts, games, music, and skits).

As it pertains to Church 360, this year's theme is "The Kingdom of God," thus children will have fun building castles, wearing armor, and tying it all into important morals and a relevant

Church 360 is a non-denominational church located in the Marianas Business Plaza (former Nauru Building) on the ground floor, Suite 103.

For more information or to sign your child(ren) up, call 888-2116 or info@church-360saipan.org. *(PR)* 

## PSS

From Page 1

120 laptops.

However, Sablan said, the laptops will be returned to the distributive network after each day of use. In the event there's a need to take the laptop home for specific assignments, the equipment has to be checked out, like a library material, from the network.

PSS has been giving away free laptops to 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders in public and private schools in the last four years. Each school year, the system, using federal grants, procures hundreds of new laptops for the incoming seventh graders.

To date, a total of 361 of these laptops have been reported lost or stolen, while 1,559 units are damaged. Also, it was learned that 93 secondary students were not issued any laptop and are not benefiting from the program.

Despite the agreement signed by PSS with parents on their responsibility and accountability for the laptops, there appears to have some flaws due to the large number of lost and damaged units.

Sablan admitted that the system has incurred "losses," based on the damaged units reported.

The new method, she said, will establish controls while giving students continued access to the technology.

Sablan pointed out, however, that the "policy change" will only apply to PSS, as private schools will be given the flexibility on how they will provide it to students.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero expects the new method to disappoint some students, but he pointed out that it's the right measure to adopt for PSS.

"I know that many kids may be disappointed but when we're using federal funds, we need to assess how the program is working and if it's not working the way it is intended, we need to revisit and do something," he told Saipan Tribune, adding that the policy shift was at recommendation of school principals.

For students who still have their laptops with them, Guerrero hopes that they will appreciate and value the technology, as it was especially provided to help them in their studies.

Yesterday, the board approved a proposed consolidated grant application with the federal government to appropriate \$500,000 next fiscal year for the PSS laptop project.

## OPA rejects appeals on DPW highway, wood chippers projects

The Office of the Public Auditor separately denied two procurement protests related to Department of Public Works' proposed purchase of wood chippers and an estimated \$4 million Cross Island road improvement project phase II-B. OPA's decision could finally pave the way for the projects to proceed, after hitting a snag brought by procure-

SAT 10 was conducted among

tested our 4th and 7th graders and

we got a record-breaking result

at 45 percentile," said Sablan,

adding that first-time test takers

normally yield lower outcomes.

SAT 10 data shows that per-

centile growth ranges from 2

to 14 percent this school year.

A cohort means the same group

of students that take the test in

For the grade level that took

Data obtained by Saipan Tri-

bune yesterday show that for

the Grade 3 complete battery

test, students of the Gregorio T.

Camacho Elementary School

prevailed with the highest score

of 62 percentile, followed by San

Vicente Elementary and Kobler-

ville Elementary, which are tied

at 42 percentile. Other elementary

schools performed between 30

For Grade 4, Tanapag El-

the SAT 10, the growth ranged

from 1 to 9 percentile gain.

separate school years.

Based on the cohort analysis,

"This was the first time we

**SAT-10** 

4th and 7th graders.

From Page 1

ment protests and appeals.

OPA denied GPPC's appeal on the Cross Island road improvement project on July 2.

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan told Saipan Tribune that they are going to give the green light for Hawaiian Rock Products to proceed with the federally funded project.

The OPA decision denying

ementary School had the high-

est score of 63 percentile rank.

This was the first time the fourth

grade was subjected to SAT-10.

Schools that performed at 40

and above percentile rankings

included Tinian, San Antonio,

Dandan, Oleai, Sinapalo, San

Vicente, GTC, and Tanapag el-

For Grade 5, GTC led anew

with the highest score of 63 per-

centile. The next highest scorers

were Kagman, Sinapalo, San

Antonio, and Tanapag elemen-

tary schools, which all scored

anywhere from 40 to 51 percen-

GTC once again ruled for

Grade 6, with its students scor-

ing at 62 percentile. Schools

that performed from 40 to 54

percentile ranks include Sina-

palo, San Antonio, and Tanapag

Among 7th graders, who

were also first-timers to the

test, Hopwood Junior High got

an overwhelming result of 41

For Grade 8, Dr. Rita Hocog

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High

Inos Jr. High and Hopwood

were tied at 42 percentile rank.

ementary schools.

tile rank.

For Grade 6.

elementary schools.

percentile rank.

GPPC's appeal was signed by OPA legal counsel James W. Taylor and concurred by Public Auditor Michael Pai.

"The appeal of GPPC's claim that Hawaiian Rock should have complied with the CNMI local bidder preference is denied, and the claim of improper use of GPPC's pricing data is dismissed," OPA said in its four-

School had the highest mark of 48 percentile for Grade 9, while other high schools performed be-

tween 41 to 47 percentile ranks. Meantime, Tinian High School topped the test in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade with a 52 percentile rank. The rest are at 40 to 51 percentile rankings.

GTC principal Charlotte Camacho said the consistently good showing of GTC on the SAT-10 is due to its excellent teachers. The school has twice been recognized as one of the top performing schools of PSS and she vowed to maintain this.

"Our focus is instruction and what's happening in the classroom...and that is validated through our SAT 10 result. We have great teachers in place and the expectations are clear...reasons why we have shown consistent and steady growth every year," she told Saipan Tribune.

## Achievement

Sablan described the latest SAT-10 results as a great achievement for students, teachers, administrators, and the parents who work together to improve the students' learning outcomes.

"I am so happy to see the

and efficient.

ernment's central monitoring of all gaming activity, the establishment of odds that return "80 to 90 percent of revenue to players in winnings," and return of 30 percent to 50 percent on net winnings to the government for the Retirement Fund, scholarships, and medical referral.

Agulto also wants extensive licensing and background checks on all employees and vendors.

The freshman lawmaker also wants to require gaming room design and limitation to only those

beverage, and entertainment.

"There will also be limit of gaming to 10 locations on Saipan," Agulto added.

there will be oversight by the at-

torney general and the secretaries of Finance and Commerce.

"None of these limits are included in the current electronic gaming bill... For these reasons, I am supporting the alternative Commonwealth Lottery Act of 2013 proposal that has been suggested by Governor Inos," Agulto said.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the electronic gaming bill that is now with the Senate, also believes that the electronic gaming and video lottery operations "are not conflicting proposals."

"They can coexist. The more revenue we can get, the better for all of us, for the Retirement Fund and other programs," Sablan told Saipan Tribune.

Some lawmakers, however, have remained skeptical about

the benefits of simultaneous proposals: the Saipan casino gaming bill and the electronic gaming bill, both of which are under Senate review, as well as a video lottery bill being drafted. All of them want to pump more money into the Retirement Fund, which was initially projected to last only until early 2014.

The administration is also looking at video lottery for debt service for an up to \$300 million pension obligation bond, the authorization bill for which was signed by the governor last week.

The new law authorizes the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds of up to \$300 million on behalf of the CNMI to pay the government's obligation

## LOTTERY

and 37 percentile ranks.

From Page 1

its proposed bill, Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan) is already on it, wanting to give video lottery revenue not only to the Fund but also to scholarship and medical referral programs.

Agulto is pushing for limits on the operations of video lottery, including putting them only in up to 10 locations on Saipan, including at hotels with over 250 rooms.

"And I don't think there is any conflict between video lottery and electronic gaming or casino gambling operations. We should be exploring all avenues to best help the Retirement Fund," Agulto told Saipan Tribune in an interview.

The governor, in a separate interview, said the administration is "close to finalizing" a bill to be sent over to the Legislature on video lottery operations.

Agulto said he is drafting his own bill but he said if the administration's proposal is almost similar or better than his, he might consider sponsoring the administration's bill.

The governor said he would rather move ahead with the video lottery operations through legislation to have specific authorization on the use of funds.

"We just can't arbitrarily and administratively say that the money [or] proceeds will go to Retirement Fund... It will have to be through legislation," Inos said.

"Video lottery" refers to a system in which players wager on machines in which winners are chosen based on random selection done by computer.

The administration's initial efforts involve the placement of 200 video lottery terminals in select hotels.

But Inos said, "If the market requires more, we will have that flexibility through legislation."

Agulto said that under a very tightly controlled environment developed in many states, the government is the operator of gaming activity and places tight controls on the location and type of gaming that is allowed.

Using this government structure, states can establish integrity and confidence in gaming and ensure that proper limits are placed on activities, he said.

Among the specific limits that Agulto is proposing are the govhotels with over 250 rooms. He also wants to require all gaming activities to include food,

More importantly, he said

to the Fund.

## House panel demands more accountability in govt spending

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee are demanding more accountability in each agency's spending, which will be reflected in the way the fiscal year 2014 budget bill is being crafted to show "itemized" or specific items that will be funded under the "all others" or non-personnel expenditures.

As of past 4:30pm yester-

day, the Legislative Bureau was still working on a draft of the fiscal year 2014 budget bill that the Ways and Means Committee deliberated on for weeks.

the year.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that lawmakers want to see whether an agency that received a \$5,000 appropriation for "travel" under "all others," for example, would be able to spend within that amount by the end of

"Before, there was flexibility under all others or nonpersonnel budget. They would just put the total all others budget, but not specify how much will be spent for travel or utilities or communications and supply, so that when they underspend on something, they could transfer the amount to something they overspent on. Agencies should be able to account for everything they were authorized to spend. So if they spent only \$300 of the \$500 budget, we want to know where the \$200 went," Tebuteb told Saipan Tribune.

The Ways and Means Committee wrapped up its budget deliberation Wednesday afternoon on the \$123.4 million budget, retaining most of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed budgets for major departments and programs, as well as mergers or consolidation of agency functions starting on Oct. 1.

Once a budget bill is drafted, committee members will go over the bill to finalize it.

Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said the panel went with the governor's proposed \$33 million budget for Public School System, \$5.029 million for Northern Marianas College, and \$1.9 million general fund subsidy to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The governor's proposed \$5.28-million budget for the Legislature remains the same, and so were the governor's proposals for Rota and Tinian.

The Ways and Means Committee added roughly \$74,000 to the \$100,000 it earlier added to the Judiciary's budget. The governor's original proposal was \$4.243 million.

Moreover, the committee thumbed down Rep. Ralph Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) recommendation to cut some \$880,000 from the Department of Corrections' budget and hundreds of thousands more from other agencies including the offices of the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the Department of Finance.

100 is adequate to address any of these critical positions...

We're charged with administering public services. If our hands are tied, it would be difficult for us to deliver public services. The number of FTEs is just the number that will

"We have taken into consideration current manpower shortage at the Corrections, and the need to protect both the officers and inmates. The consent decree minimum staffing level requirements were also

taken into account," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Yumul said yesterday that he still believes that "savings could have been realized."

"But at the end of the day, my proposal

didn't get the vote. I did my best but I guess my best wasn't good enough," said Yumul, chairman of the ad-hoc Cost-Cutting Committee that was formed out of an agreement between the Inos administration and the Legislature.

Ways and Means also kept intact the governor's proposed mergers and consolidations of agencies with overlapping functions, including combining the Workforce Investment Agency and the Department of Labor.

The budget panel also supported the governor's proposed elimination and transitioning of the Division of Sports and Recreation from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, or NMASA.

As to the governor's proposed privatization of the functions of the Division of Parks and Recreation—by outsourcing grounds maintenance services for all parks and recreational areas—the committee addressed it differently.

Sablan said the committee stood by its decision to keep 25 of the governor's proposed hiring of 100 full-time equivalents for the Executive Branch as a "fallback" plan should the privatization of parks maintenance services does not succeed.

The governor, in a separate interview, reiterated that the FTE pool "has nothing to do with that," referring to the personnel affected by the proposed parks maintenance service privatization.

Inos said the easiest way to do it would be to take the money that's available for the service contract and restore that for personnel project with the amount of FTEs the committee plans.

"In other words, status quo. They don't need to worry about the pool. The pool is just a matter of allowing flexibility for emergency and critical positions. We believe the number

100 is adequate to address any of these critical positions...
We're charged with administering public services. If our hands are tied, it would be difficult for us to deliver public services. The number of FTEs is just the number that will give us the flexibility. There's no money in there. Even if they give us a thousand, if we don't have the money we can't do it. Even if we have the money, if we don't have the FTEs then we can't do it either," the governor said.





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Life in Motion

## Bill proposes \$3 entry fee at Grotto in Marpi

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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Visiting the popular tourist spot Grotto in Marpi for sightseeing or diving would cost \$3 once a newly pre-filed bill becomes law, to help secure a source of funding for its maintenance and security.

Grotto is an underwater limestone cavern plummeting 70 feet at its deepest point. Tourists and residents flock to the Grotto for a chance to view the limestone cavern or a chance to dive its underwater world.

Reps. Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan) and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed House Bill 18-96, authorizing the Marianas Visitors

Authority, in consultation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, to "charge a base entry fee of \$3 to descend down for a cave viewing of Grotto."

The authors said many states charge fees to enter or visit sites,

to help ensure a source of funding for maintenance and security, and they propose to do the same at the Grotto.

Revenues generated from the Grotto entry fee will be deposited into subaccounts that the Department of Finance will create: 50 percent to benefit MVA, and 50 percent to benefit DFW, which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Benavente and Deleon Guerrero pre-filed the bill a few weeks after the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on MVA's proposed fiscal year 2014 budget. In that hearing, lawmakers mulled charging "nominal" fees at the Grotto dive site and other tourist spots to ensure a source of funding for these areas' maintenance and security.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that he supports the bill's intent to charge fees at the Grotto to help maintain and secure it, but he said he would like to ask "why the proposed fee is \$3."

"I support the bill's intent, but was there a study done to determine that \$3 is the right amount for a fee? Who is going to collect the \$3? MVA or DFW?" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos proposed a \$1.161 million budget for MVA for 2014, down from \$2.007 million. However, MVA is set to get an increase from other sources such as a portion of the increase in hotel occupancy taxes since April 1 this year.

Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the panel retained the governor's budget submission for MVA.

## Store's camera helps identify alleged milk thief

A surveillance camera helped the management of Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center in Garapan identify one of its employees who allegedly stole several cans of powdered milk and other products.

Arvin S. Avila, 25, was arrested for theft and was taken to the Superior Court for his initial appearance Wednesday afternoon. He is being kept on a \$5,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing is

on July 18 at 9am.

Police detective Patrick George stated in his report that a duty manager at Joeten Hafa Adai did an inventory last Friday on the Similac Advance Infant Formula Powder upon receiving information that the physical inventory does not match the inventory list.

Upon discovering that 36 cans of Similac product were missing, the duty manager reviewed the

store's surveillance camera.

The footage of the surveillance camera allegedly showed the suspicious behavior of an employee, Avila, who went inside the warehouse but did not turn on the lights. Avila was then allegedly seen taking a box from the warehouse and placing it in the dumpster in the receiving area.

When the duty manager and other store managers confronted Avila on Tuesday about the video footage, the employee allegedly admitted that he had been stealing Similac from the warehouse for over a year now.

George said that in his interview with Avila on Tuesday at the Department of Corrections, the suspect admitted to not only stealing Similac but also cases of Spam.

George said the 36 cans of stolen Similac were worth a total of \$791.64. *(Ferdie de la Torre)* 

## Lieutenant governor's birthday fundraiser is moved to July 26

A birthday party and political fundraiser for Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider originally set for tonight has been rescheduled for July 26, Friday, because of a death in the family. Moreover, as of yesterday, there is still no telling which political position Hofschneider is gunning for when he runs in November 2014.

Hofschneider may seek the Tinian mayor's post or seek election again as a senator representing Tinian, sources said.

"The Planning Committee apologizes for any inconveniences and will inform the general public once a rescheduled date is confirmed," fundraiser coordinator Leticia Palacios said yesterday.

Palacios said the new date is now July 26. For more information, she could be reached through palaciostisha@gmail.com.

A group of the lieutenant governor's friends have been working together to throw a birthday party fundraiser for him, Palacios said.

Despite the rescheduling, the \$50-per-person birthday fundraiser for Hofschneider will still be at the Pacific Islands Club from 6pm to 10pm, and will feature live music and entertainment.

Hofschneider was Senate vice president in the 17th Legislature and became Senate president in January 2013 when the 18th Legislature took office. However, barely a month after that, he ascended to the lieutenant governor post when then lieutenant governor Eloy S. Inos became governor, following the Feb. 20 resignation of former governor Benigno R. Fitial. (Haidee V. Eugenio)





SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013 **7** 



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PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
AND THE

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## **Fund sees** substantial additional legal fees

The NMI Retirement Fund has requested the federal court to clarify its briefing schedule on the various motions in the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government.

In the Fund's request for clarification filed Tuesday, Fund counsel Braddock J. Huesman said that, as the briefing and hearing schedule required by the courts' June 5, 2013 scheduling order is still in effect, the Fund will incur very substantial additional legal fees to draft and prepare its oppositions to the motions to remand the lawsuit to the Superior Court.

"If the court intended to stay the briefing and hearing schedule in the instant case as well, then the Fund respectfully requests that the court issue an order in this case to modify the scheduling order of June 5, 2013,"



Huesman

said. In her June 5 order, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge

Frances Tydingco-Gatewood set a briefing schedule for the various motions to remand filed by the CNMI government and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Huesman said the June 5 order is identical to a related scheduling order filed in a sister case, Betty Johnson's class action suit versus the Fund.

Huesman said the June 5 order indicates that the Fund's oppositions to the various remand motions are due on July 15, 2013, and that there is a hearing scheduled on Aug. 16.

Subsequent to the June 5 order, the CNMI government's and Johnson's attorneys indicated that a tentative global settlement agreement had been reached in Johnson's lawsuit.

Huesman said that Tydingco-Gatewood then issued in the Johnson case an order that modified the schedule, indicating that all briefing would be rescheduled if the parties in the Johnson case do not file "a motion to approve the settlement agreement by July 22, 2013."

While it appears that the court intended to apply the same briefing and hearing schedules and include both cases, Huesman said the scheduling order has been filed only in the Johnson's case.

In the July 2 scheduling order, Tydingco-Gatewood urged the parties in Johnson's class action to continue working in good faith with one another to finalize the proposed settlement agreement. (Ferdie de la Torre)



## July 12, 2005

## **CNMI pleads case in DC**

Northern Marianas delegation led by Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente has left for Washington D.C. to lobby for amendments to U.S. Tariff Code to help local garment manufacturers compete in the international market. The Governor's Office said the team included governor's consultant Adam Turner and economic affairs special assistant Richard A. Pierce. Gov. Juan N. Babauta has also asked Guam Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives Madeleine Z. Bordallo to help push for the amendment to the Tariff Code's General Headnote 3(a) to reduce the local content value-added requirement for all insular areas to 30 percent level, rather than the existing 50 percent.

### Nievera concert draws 3,000-plus fans

More than 3,000 people packed Hopwood Junior High School's football field to watch Martin Nievera's "A Night to Remember" Sunday evening in what was billed as Saipan's concert event of the year. Hundreds of cars filled the allotted parking space inside and outside the venue. There was also a long queue of people at both gates as early as 5pm, with traffic along the road slowing down to a crawl to accommodate the hundreds of people streaming into Hopwood. Fans said they wanted to get the best seats possible for a close look at Manila's concert king.

### July 12, 2006

## SHEFA presents returning scholars to the community

Recent college graduates who had benefited from the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance were presented to the Rotary the Club of Saipan yesterday during the group's regular weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan. SHEFA board member Howard Macaranas and long-time advocate and former Rep. William Torres graced the occasion and presented the "products" of the two-year-old scholarship and financial assistance program. Macaranas said they want SHEFA scholars to be noticed by the business community in the CNMI, hence the presentation.

### **New Head Start classrooms about 52-percent complete**

The CNMI Head Start Program's future learning center in the heart of Garapan is nearing completion and will soon open its services to the community. According to Elizabeth Balajadia, the Public School System's Capital Improvement Project coordinator, the new Head Start building in Garapan is 52-percent complete and PSS is targeting to finish the project this December. She said the roofing for the classrooms was completed Monday last week. Head Start Program director Jeanne Samari said during the groundbreaking ceremony in March that there would be two new Head Start buildings this year. The two additional Head Start classrooms would have at least four sessions every day serving at least 75 children. Samari said there would be 17 Head Start students per session, as federal law requires.

## July 12, 2007

### Fitial sets meeting with DC officials before Senate hearing

Making up for his absence here, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will meet with a handful of officials before attending the hearing on the CNMI federalized immigration bill in the Senate next week. Fitial will see Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-New Mexico), chairman of the US Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources as well as U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and Interior deputy assistant secretary David B. Cohen. "I understand the Governor will be coming. He has scheduled a meeting with Sen. Bingaman on the 17th," said Allen P. Stayman, the committee's senior staff member.

## 'Marianas to get 170K Japanese tourists in summer'

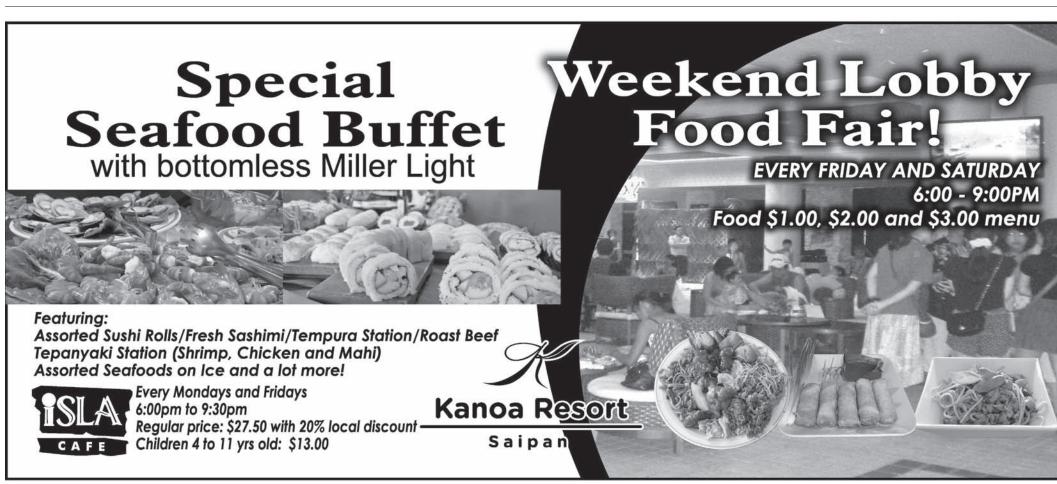
Saipan and Guam will receive approximately 170,000 Japanese tourists this summer, according to a top travel management agency. JTB Corp. said the number of Japanese travelers coming to the Marianas this summer will decline by 2,000, or 1.2 percent, compared with the same period last year. No separate figure was provided for Guam or Saipan. The combined estimate for both destinations represents 6.7 percent of the 2.52 million total Japanese who are expected to travel overseas during summer. JTB's projection was based on a survey of 1,200 Japanese who intend to spend at least one night away from home between July 15 and Aug. 31, 2007. The survey was conducted June 6-18 in 200 locations throughout Japan.



CLASS RELINION

Members of the Mount Carmel School Class of 1983 poses for a group photo during its 30th Class Reunion held early this month at the Pacific Islands Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





## **Opinion**



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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## **EDITORIAL**

## Survival lessons from airliner crash

he remarkable safety record of airline travel in the United States over the past decade has a bizarre tendency to justify passenger inattention before takeoff when flight attendants go through the list of procedures to follow in emergency situations. We look out the window, immerse ourselves in reading material or daydream. Anything not to listen to that boring list of do's and don'ts for the umpteenth time.

Saturday's crash landing of an Asiana Airlines jumbo jet at San Francisco International Airport serves as a reminder why it's a supremely bad idea to assume that such accidents won't happen to you and, therefore, it's OK to ignore those safety instructions. Everything on that 11-hour flight from South Korea seemed to go normally until about seven seconds before the plane hit the ground. At that moment, though, few things mattered more to the survival of the flight's 307 passengers and crew than those emergency procedures.

Miraculously, all but two passengers survived, and questions remain whether one of those deaths was caused by emergency vehicles on the ground and not by the crash itself. Yes, there were scores of injuries, but 123 passengers walked away from the wreckage on their own.

This crash follows another potentially catastrophic passenger airliner accident, in 2009, when a U.S. Airways flight taking off from New York's LaGuardia Airport made a successful emergency landing on the Hudson River. Not a single passenger died, due largely to the pilot's skill at landing on water but also because emergency evacuation procedures worked exactly as they were designed.

Both cases are a tribute to crew members and passengers who, no doubt, overcame a sense of terror and followed procedures. It's also a tribute to better airliner design and construction. Stronger seat designs and anchoring methods help them serve as a protective shell for passengers. Structural changes are making fuselages more durable, and increased use of flame-retardant materials gives crew and passengers those crucial extra seconds to evacuate.

And the bulk of the crew members' training is not to ensure you receive adequate pretzels and soft drinks. They are drilled in multiple emergency scenarios to ensure that a maximum number of passengers survive in those rare times of real crisis.

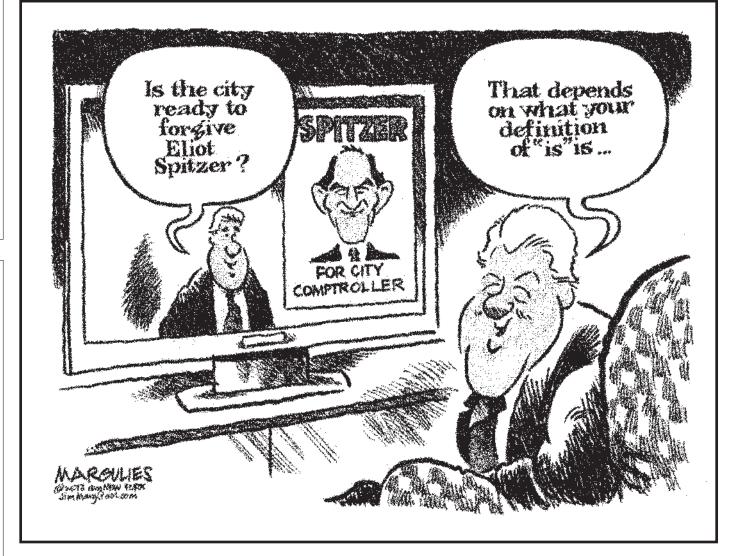
Still not convinced that those emergency procedures are worth listening to? We know of 305 people in San Francisco who would probably be happy to change your mind.

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## The border isn't the problem

ow that the Senate has passed a sweeping bipartisan bill to overhaul the nation's immigration laws, it's the House's turn to act. But as expected, Republicans in that chamber are once again insisting that the border between the U.S. and Mexico be sealed as a prerequisite to approving broader reforms. Unless 90 percent of illegal border crossings are stopped once and for all, they say, they will not support any plan to grant legal status to the 11 million im-

See BORDER on Next Page



## TAR-TAP-TAC

e started from Shenyang toward Xizang, hoping that if permission was not available in Liaoning to proceed to Lhasa, it might be possible in Chengdu, the traditional gateway to Xizang before the new and efficient train ride from Beijing opened. However, recent attacks on authorities in Xinjiang have alarmed the Chinese government on unrestricted activities of foreigners in ethnic territories.

Oh, I still can go, but I will have to join a tour group and pay the requisite (e.g., travel, hotels, guides, meals) fees. It is obviously too rich for my local pay scale.

So, since we failed to make it to TAR (Tibet Autonomous Region), we are in Sichuan's TAP (Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures), with forays to TAC (Tibetan Autonomous County) in Yunnan, Guizhou, and Qinghai. We are not getting the second best thing. A little social studies might be helpful here. The Kham Kingdom, descendants to the Mongolian Genghis Khan, ruled the southern half of the Himalayas until the Qing Dynasty; a third of Tibetans are Khams.

Tibetans in Sichuan, Guizhou, Qinghai, and Yunnan are Khams, locally known as Zang. (Xi = west, Zang = the ethnic group, ergo Xizang, the local and formal name of Tibet in the Chinese lexicon.) The southern third of Tibet is predominantly Zang. The Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures in Sichuan are, well, no longer Zang. The Hans came and stayed.

The Qing Dynasty encouraged migration of residents from neighboring provinces and, before World War II, folk from Guangdong and Fijian also came.

The Hakkas who live between Guangdong and Fujian, where such luminaries as Sun Yat Sen, Lee Kwan Yew (of Singapore), and the Soong sisters came from, look like they traveled to Sichuan as well. This is not based on statistics, just a hunch.

The Hakka we worked with in the New Territories are mostly people without affinity to geography other than the water under their sampans. They are nomads related to the Badjao of Mindanao. If they settle down at all, they build stilt houses on the shoreline.

Anyway, if Europe has its flying buttresses for its cathedrals, the new highways built and being built in Sichuan at the moment are heavily on stilts. It is a highway in the sky, not just slashing a road on the side of the mountain (like Patapat between Ilocos Norte and Cagayan, the roads toward Bontoc from Baguio, and the zigzag road between N. Ecija and N. Viscaya), but laying the superhighway and the rail lines on towering concrete stilts. Seeing the terrain between ravines and gorges, valleys and gullies, it makes sense to have elevated thoroughfares to traverse distances that would normally take longer. Such is the Immigrants' highway out of Sao Paulo built in 1974.

The Cantonese from Guangdong and Hong Kong, trained in the art of maximizing the use of space, appears to have their fingers in

## By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



the urban planning of places within TAP where new settlements are rising like the high-rises of Kowloon, and zigzag roads are being built on the mountainside like the way to Victoria Peak. The Hans, all over the place, have taken over the affairs of TAP, mining its rich natural resource as new residents, giving token political roles for the Zang and the Qiang, and paternalistic observance of Buddhist practices and rites.

In Kangling, capital of the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (TAP), 20 percent of the visible pedestrian Zang ladies are impeccably dressed in their silk fineries, regal in their bearing, and so nicely coiffed. Without the headdress that their elders' multicolored cotton and linen wear woven long ago in log houses, though now supplied from Canton-Guangdong factories from polyester, the new Zang ladies who presumably work with the current political administration look like they just walked off a Vogue photo shoot.

Whatever benefits might accrue to the ethnic locals, the Hans have all the high cards. This is not a discourse on ethnic racism. It is simply an observation that in the TAP, similar to their political counterparts in other places, it has about 20 percent of population benefiting from the rapid changes that has occurred in the economy. It just so happens that the Hans are more visibly in charge, but the 20 percent do ride their Benzes and their youth their mopeds. The masses hold hands and walk.

A good percentage of the Zang and other ethnic groups in TAP look like they are short on bath, would quickly panhandle to survive without guilt or hesitation, and their hustlers at the bus depot look like they would divest one of his wallet quicker than enabling one to get accommodations for the night. They are not unlike the locals in my neck of the Cordillera and Caravallo woods

We are painting with big strokes here. We shall deal more with our experience in the city Kangling, with the descendants of the royal household of Geser and the Kangding Love Song, in another reflection. That I did make it to Tibet in Sichuan, though short of turning the prayer wheels of Potala Palance, is thanks to the Zang. Our encounters were just as real as if we had been to Lhasa, alas, even in the shortness of breath from the thin air.

Xizang 2013 go-go-go. We did.

## **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not: the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com

Do you speak lunch?

y attempt to speak reasonably good Chinese has been an epic failure, and I've become a one-man linguistic freak show. Slapstick comedy is hard to resist, so my pals have come to expect regular updates on my latest failing, or, should I say, flailing. Today I'm being elbowed to mug for the crowd again, so everyone can have more laughs, the better to stave off the July doldrums.

Sure, I'll play along. But don't laugh too hard. Maybe you're

According to the studies I've seen, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean are all in the most difficult tier of language difficulty. And these are just the three languages I contemplated studying, which will make sense if you've ever worked in Saipan's tourism industry.

I wound up picking Chinese because I got totally stymied in a Taiwanese noodle shop one afternoon. The language barrier was insurmountable. Not that I starved, of course; the owner and I still managed to put food in my belly and money in his pocket, but that's because he just gave me random stuff to eat, and I ate it. The noodles were good, but being so painfully illiterate in such an important language left a bad taste in my mouth.

Shortly thereafter a few other minor humiliations prodded me to study Chinese. That language is everywhere, and it's growing in importance; how could I remain so oblivious?

Hitting the fast-forward button on the gig, after a few semesters of Mandarin classes, more than a few books on top of that, and a lot of volunteer efforts from friends serving as "ad hoc" tutors, I realized I just wasn't getting very far for my efforts.

Ever hear of Pareto's law? It's the old 80/20 gig, or at least that's

the common interpretation of it. Whenever I get truly stuck I start looking for evidence of this. And indeed I found it. When I dug into my notes and vocabulary list, I realized that I was spending 80 percent of my time on 20 percent of the material.

Normally, that seems logical. After all, we make progress by pushing into areas of resistance, right? Right. Me, I like to bulldoze ahead. But not even my bullheaded determination could make a dent in the Great Wall of Chinese.

So I opted for some reverse logic. I decided to go backwards, not forward. I culled my vocabulary list down to the stuff I was managing to retain. The rest of it I threw out. Instead of tackling ever more complicated stuff, I decided to ignore it, and just try to practice the most basic stuff.

Just to keep things as simple as possible, I returned to my conceptual ground zero: I started going to noodle shops.

The entire Pacific is awash in Chinese noodle shops. You don't have to go to China to have Chinese noodles any more than you have to go to France for French fries.

After a few episodes of noodle shop practicing, my wheels were oiled. I started getting practice in other Chinese restaurants, cafes, and shops. Shopkeepers and waitresses became my main source of tutelage in the tongue.

As for the reading side of things, I forgot all about my books. I just pay attention to the more common elements of store signs.

For example, I can distinguish a used tire store from a reproductive organs clinic; hey, you never know when this distinction will come in handy, especially if you're trying to use a coupon.

In the academic sense, I'm sure my classroom Chinese has not

## By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



improved. In fact, it has surely gotten worse from neglect.

But in the street sense I'm finally getting some traction. At long last, I can order lunch. I can ask for a decaf hot latte in a cafe. For dinner last week I requested chopped cucumbers in my noodles, and I actually got chopped cucumbers in my noodles. I negotiated with a watch maker to replace my watch band. I bought some exotic roots in an old-school Chinese herb shop, and I am assured that I will live to be 200 years old, which is great because I only feel 150 these days; these July doldrums sure hit hard, eh?

Those are the successes. The failures are too numerous to recount, but they're either becoming less frequent, or I've become too callous to care any longer.

Still, I think I'm putting a brave face on the fact I've pretty much quit studying Chinese. I've drifted down to the lowest possible level of street-level basics, and I'm not only content to stay there, but I'm actually happy to roll around in it. Oddly enough, the worse I get, the more comfortable it feels. Not even Pareto could explain that one!

## Tourism: Our only industry!

he CNMI can't ignore the devastation of investments in recent past. We're right in the midst of an economic or fiscal disaster after investments in various sectors took massive exodus from the islands. Perhaps we're equally guilty of neglect for failing to protect the lifeblood of the Northern Marianas community—deterioration of the only productive sector: private industries.

We're living proof of the eventuality that it is today the origin being on investment exodus—when investors used their feet to think! They did and headed out the jet way.

The CNMI lost some \$1.2 billion when the apparel industry moved elsewhere, the exodus of investments from the Land of the Rising Sun, and the annihilating effects of federalization. The approximate sum of investment exodus is about \$7 billion. The ripple effects prompted the closure of a lot of residual businesses that were established because of the apparel industry, i.e., from insurance firms to trucking, among others. Jobs were closed, shut, and bolted and our people rendered jobless and helpless.

Remember when the expansive apparel industry required extra shipping to move finished products off island? Where timely delivery of goods looks occasionally suspect, a proactive strengthening of the airline industry was effected to move apparel products to U.S. buyers on time. Sad that when it closed its doors, it also ended profitable shipping both at the airport and seaport, major losses in revenue. Did liberal progressives in Washington extend the olive branch so we jointly begin anew?

It was the CNMI economy that was gored or annihilated by egregious policies from without and within. They triggered business closure and exodus in the billions of dollars that were once recycled in the local economy. The policy federalizing immigration and minimum wage did the finishing job that literally paralyzed local government revenue streams.

Yet we wonder what becomes of federal government commitment under the Covenant Agreement to ensure that the CNMI attain "a progressively higher standard of living." Or is this a part of the Solomon Report agenda to ensure that the CNMI is totally dependent on federal handouts? We also guiz if the current relationship is one of a "family," "friend," or "special interest." Is there anything else the feds plan to hurl against the CNMI as it plays out its agenda to turn the islands into a complete welfare entity?

Thus, it makes it imperative and perfect sense that we retreat and reassess the importance of rebuilding our last industry, tourism. It is our holy grail to reviving the local economy. As the industry resurges, it grants all key players time to take critical review of other sectors that could be improved and turned (beyond conventional wisdom) into major players in revenue generation supporting the visitor industry.

## Let's begin with an understanding

The natural beauty of these islands can't be found in cold places like South Korea, Japan, China, and other lion and tiger countries hit by vicious frigid weather during the winter months.

It is its inimitable ambiance (beauty only found on an island) that attracts them when choosing the next family vacation, especially in the winter months.

As such, it makes complementing the beauty of these islands with local determination to walk the walk and talk the talk to ensure it is clean, safe, and complemented with memorable island hospitality.

Only we could do this by picking up trash voluntarily or cleaning up around beaches and parks after we're done with it. Public toilets in visitor sites must be kept clean, including ascertaining that there's water for visitors to wash their hands or use the facility parting with nature's call.

Only we could ensure the islands are safe by proactively guarding tourist sites, beaches, roads, and restaurants frequented by visitors and islanders alike. Call DPS for help when you see people vandalizing these places. Let's keep our islands safe 24/7.

Only we could show our visitors the unique essence of these isles by conveying our memorable island hospitality. We could do this by simply smiling, waving and saying buenas, welcome to our island. Imagine showering our visitors with a clean and safe destination and a place where the local folks are very friendly and courteous. The spread of the word of mouth from these visitors to friends back home encourages other visitors to visit our beautiful place in the sun.

## **Nearby competitors**

Lest we forget, the CNMI has natural competitors nearby that are

in 2005 to fewer than 365,000 in 2012 and 2011, according to the Border Patrol.

Clearly, the decline in illegal immigration is due to changes on both sides of the border, including the sluggish U.S. economy and greater economic opportunity in Mexico. But much of the shift is also the result of heightened border enforcement that began during the George W. Bush administration and continues today. More than 20,000 agents are assigned to patrol the border, assisted by drones and other technology.

Such gains are conveniently overlooked by border hawks in the House, including Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who apparently believes that anything less than a U.S. equivalent of the Great Wall of China is insufficient. But even the final Senate immigration bill—in

## By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



fully competent to lure their share of visitors. These include Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The last five lion and tiger countries are blessed, like the CNMI, with the triad: sun, sea, and sand. They are equally working the clock to take their services to a unique and highly competitive level.

If I may illustrate a point: Take a trip to Palawan Island in the Philippines. You're literally in paradise where services are superb in water sports like swimming in clear blue waters, basking under a waterfall, fishing in a fish-filled lagoon, a stroll along white sandy beaches, dining that offers high quality barbecued garden variety fish and lobster that are larger than ours, a walk among seaside shops and nearby town. Definitely, you'd leave Palawan with a darn good taste in your mouth for the rest of your life! This experience is what we wish to offer our friends who visit these isles throughout the year.

Definitely, there's something unique about these isles too. It's situated three to four hours from major places in Asia, the yearlong summer weather that stays warmly alluring, especially during the winter months, and the unique cultural traditions of our people, among others.

If you will, I was surprised to see a Japanese family friend jumping in jubilation when we cut open a young coconut and handed it to her to drink. She was thrilled while I stood puzzled why the excitement. I have no idea but then she must have associated our islands and coconut trees. Believe it or not, there are a lot of attractions that could only be found in this archipelago. Let's join hands and begin by keeping our islands clean, safe and a memorable place to visit.

which border security spending was jacked up at the eleventh hour from \$4.5 billion to \$46 billion-would not establish an impen-

The United States has a right to determine who should be allowed into the country. But the best way to reduce illegal entries is to ease the bottleneck for legal immigration and to tighten penalties against employers who sidestep the law. And that's exactly what the Senate bill does, increasing the number of green cards for high- and low-skilled workers while providing temporary visas to seasonal workers.

The Senate has done its job. Now let's hope House Republicans can figure out a way to do theirs and deliver much-needed comprehensive immigration reform.

## ©2013 Los Angeles Times

## **BORDER**

From Page 10

migrants who are already living in the country illegally.

Such requirements, however, are pointless. The reality is that the border is more secure today than at just about any time in this nation's recent history. The number of immigrants who entered the U.S. illegally at the nine major crossing points from California to Texas fell by an astounding 86 percent between 2006 and 2011, according to the Government Accountability Office. Overall, the number of immigrants coming illegally to the United States is at a 40-year low, having dropped from slightly more than 1 million

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

## The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph

**▲88° ▼79°** 



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° **▼7**9°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88° ▼78°** 

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲88°** ▼77° **▲ 88° ▼ 77°** 

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**Micronesia** 

### Auckland Mostly Cloudy ▲58 ▼51 Partly Cloudy ▲84 ▼70 Beijing Hong Kong Cloudy ▲ 91 ▼83 **▲**86 **▼**72 Honolulu Sunnv London Mostly Sunny ▲85 ▼61 Partly Cloudy ▲79 ▼64 Los Angeles Manila Thundershowers ▲ 87 ▼79 Melbourne Showers **▲**58 **▼**49 **▲**88 **▼**77 Miami Showers New York Thundershowers ▲ 80 ▼68 Osaka Thundershowers ▲ 88 ▼77 Paris Sunnv **▲**79 **▼**60 Pusan Thundershowers ▲82 ▼75 Rome Sunny **▲**83 **▼**67 **▲**80 ▼51 Salem Sunny San Francisco Partly Cloudy ▲61 ▼53 Seoul Thundershowers ▲82 ▼74

Tides								
Saipan Ha	rbor							
5:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet					
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5:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet					
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Washington, DC Mostly Cloudy ▲82 ▼70

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## PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Soulik (07W) is centered well to the northwest of the Marianas near 22N130E and heading in the general direction of northern Taiwan. The heaviest weather associated with the typhoon including numerous showers and thunderstorms is located west of 134E between 18N and 24N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther away from the center west of a box starting near 25N130E to 10N138E and back to 12N130E to the northeast of the Marianas an upper-level trough centered along a line from 20N145E to 32N156E is helping to trigger an extensive area of scattered showers and pockets of thunderstorms along the eastern side of the trough axis in the upper level divergence field. This area is located north of a box from 25N155E to 19N149E to 16N162E and then up to 25N162E. A weak monsoon trough is located between Koror and Yap on the west side and Chuuk on the east and is showing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 3N to 8N between 137E and 147E east of Chuuk and in the vicinity of Pohnpei an inverted trough is aligned south of the upper-level feature discussed above and is helping to create an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. This includes Chuuk. Pohnpei and Kosrae from 2N to 13N between 151E and 164E. Finally, a weak area on scattered showers is located in the ITCZ in the Marshalls within 100 miles of a line between 170E and the dateline along 5N.

Su	nrise/Suns	et	Mod	onrise/Moor	nset
Today	5:54 AM	6:52 PM	Today	8:53 AM	9:27 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM	Saturday	9:42 AM	10:06 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM	Sunday	10:31 AM	10:46 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Monday	11:23 AM	11:29 PM
Tuesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Tuesday	12:16 PM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togeth-
- **TRÁVELOGUE** Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ers. volunteer work. etc.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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## For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.  $\blacksquare$  Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

## For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Boad, Garapan, Saipan

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  For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right
- to choose which pictures to publish.



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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DE	PAR	TUR	ES		ARF	RIVAL	S
SAIPAN-GUA	M (GUM	)		GUAM (GUN	()-SAIPAI	N	
UA5070		5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069		3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062		5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071		8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	, 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076		4:00pm	Daily	UA5077		6:25pm	Daily
UA5078		7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
				ROTA (ROP)			
				UA5062		4:20am	1, 3, 5
				UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
SAIPAN-NAR	ITA (ND:	n		NARITA (NE	NTIA9-(TC	M	
DL287		8:45am	Daily	DL298	-	3:05pm	Daily
DL297		7:25pm	Daily	DL288		12:50am+1	
DLL	1.00piii	1.Lopiii	buny	DEEGG	0.10p111	iz.oouiii i	Dun'i
SAIPAN-BUS	AN (PUS	5)		BUSAN (PU	S)-SAIPA	N	
0Z608		6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	0Z607		1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOU				SEOUL (ICN			
0Z606		6:00am	1	0Z603		2:20pm	Daily
0Z606		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605		1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHAI	NCHAI (	DVC)		SHANGHAI	(DVC)-9/	IDAN	
3U8648		8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647		5:00am+1	1467
000010	o.iouiii	o. rouin	1, 1, 0, 1	000011	io. iopin	o.oouiii i	1, 1, 0, 1
SAIPAN-BEIJ	ING (PE	:K)		BEIJING (P	EK)-SAIP	AN	
MU764		8:00am	1, 5	MU763		3:10am+1	4, 7
					·		
SAIPAN-GUA				GUANZHOU			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
CAIDAN VIIA	D A DOUG	w wills		VIIADADOV	on winn	OAIDAN	
SAIPAN-KHAI SYL9950			7	KHABAROVS			7
3119900	0.40µ111	1:30am+1	İ	SYL9949	12.40)111	5:20pm	I
SAIPAN-VLAD	OTZOVIC	K (VVO)		VLADIVOST	OK (VVO)	-SAIPAN	
XF1734		10:30pm	4 Every other	XF1733		3:25pm	4 Every other
		. о. о о р	week eff			0.20p	week eff
			May 16				May 16
			·				,
SAIPAN-MAN				MANILA (M			
0Z606/701		11:05am	1 via ICN	PR110/UA507	2 7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	D1470/000	0.00	40.50	via GUM
1145070/101	4.05	0.55	via ICN	DL172/288		12:50am+1	,
UA5070/191		9:55am 9:55am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	,	3, 6 via GUM
UA5062/191 DL287/173			3 via GUM	UA190/5079 0Z702/605	10:55am	9.10pm 1:10am+1	3, 6 via GUM 7 via ICN
UA5068/PR111		10:05pm 4:35pm	Daily via NRT 1, 3, 5, 6, 7	02702/605	,	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UNJUUUJI KIII	0.JJaiii	4.JJpIII	via GUM	02102/003	ız.ıəpiii	1.43011111	via ICN
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7	UA184/5071	10:55nm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
00001 1/1 11111	II.LUUIII	1.00pm	via GUM	Onio ijoori	10.00pm	0.000111 1	via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
			via GUM				
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN				
	a va	41175		Hana			
			1.4.100	HONG KONG			D-11. 1 1011
SAIPAN-HON	z:zuam	11:50am	1 via ICN	02746/603		2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2.50	urbuam	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	02722/605		1:10am+1	7 via ICN
	2:50am		via ICN				
0Z606/721 0Z606/721			via ICN	0Z722/605	плории	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z606/721		9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6		,		via ICN
0Z606/721 0Z606/721	3:10pm			UA180/5071 UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1 8:05am+1	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota			,	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	THE IES	10.50	10.10	Dully
Cainan Dala				Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota	0.20	10.00	Dailu	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam Soinen-Boto	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10.55	10.25	Dailu				'
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam	40.40	00.40	D. 'I	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			D. 'I	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122			
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

## Saipan chamber welcomes four new members

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce welcomed four new members during its monthly meeting on Wednesday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Chamber president Alex Sablan presented the four new members, three of which were represented during the lunch meeting at Charley's Cabaret.

Inducted to the Chamber were Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc., RM Marketing Services, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, and Jungle Jim Island Adventures.

Pacific Marine owner David Dougherty shared a little bit of about his company and himself, saying he was raised in the Midwest and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1965. After retiring in 1986, Dougherty purchased an architectural engineering company named Thomas J. Davis, Inc.

Thomas J. Davis is the same company that designed a number of buildings on Saipan and in Guam, including the Royal Taga Hotel, the Joeten Shopping Center, and the University of Guam campus.

His work took him to Saipan and then South Korea where he spent 20 years running the company.

"After 20 years I decided it was time to come back to Saipan because I spent some time here in the mid-'90s. So I decided to go fishing and I heard a boat was available and

## \$10K cash bail for man who allegedly beat up 2 nieces

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed Wednesday a \$10,000 cash bail on a 37-year-old man who allegedly beat up his two nieces, including a minor, for being noisy.

Joaquin M. Igisomar was arrested on Tuesday night for assault and battery, child abuse, and disturbing the peace. Preliminary hearing will be on July 16 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety received a call about a child abuse incident at a house in San Jose on Friday at 10:46am.

Skilling said that, according to a 15-year-old child, she was sitting outside her house when her uncle, Igisomar, who was asleep at a nearby house, woke up and went over to her house. The defendant allegedly slapped her twice in the face. The girl said she didn't not know why Igisomar was so angry.

Igisomar then went inside her house and allegedly slapped another niece and threw her to the ground.

The minor child later told police that Igisomar went to her house around midnight and yelled at her for being noisy when people were sleeping. (Ferdie de la Torre)

other vessels in April of 2011," he said

As of Friday, Pacific Marine already has 11 vessels, including its latest acquisition—an LCM (landing craft mechanized) vessel, which can carry up to 65 tons of material between the islands and "go to places where the bigger vessels just can't get in."

Aside from carrying cargo across the islands, Pacific Marine also does ship repairs.

Dougherty said his company has just put an offer on a catamaran in Hawaii, which he hopes to use to ferry passengers and cargo between Saipan and Tinian.

RM Marketing Services Russ Mason says he is a local newspaper columnist and pro-

picked that up along with three vides public relations services, advertising, and media communications to clients.

> Mason said he also make jingles for radio spots and went on to sample three commercials he hurriedly made for the Chamber presentation: a spot for Bobby Cadillac's, a Microl teaser, and a spot for the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic.

> Accepting the membership package for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council was its executive director, Scott Russell.

> The council has been in the CNMI for 22 years and hosts numerous community and civic projects and presentations.

Russell said he is pleased that the council is again a member of the Chamber. He invited members to attend a reception the council is hosting for P.F. Kluge on July 26 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, 6pm-9pm

Kluge will be doing a presentation called "Saipan Then, Saipan Now, Saipan Tomorrow," which will draw on his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer on Saipan from 1967 to 1969 and his numerous return visits to the island over the intervening half-century.

Russell also talked about Kluge's ongoing writer's workshop and the three-part documentary on Article 12 the council recently finished.

Meanwhile, Jungle Jim Island

Adventures, owned by James Davies, conducts tours and tourism activities.

Chamber executive director Richard Pierce said the four new members shows there are still many investors who believe in Saipan and the CNMI.

"New members mean we have a broader spectrum of interest, opinion, and needs. This makes us a better business organization," he said. "It's encouraging to find new investment and business owners on Saipan attracted to joining the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as a way to network and succeed with their business interests." (Mark Rabago)



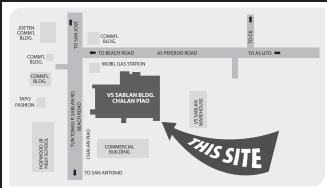
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## Island Snapshots

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to you Honey Dew! May God continue to bless you on this day and many more to come! Tatum Mamet and I loves vou forever and thank you always for all that you do! You're our greatest blessing and know we will always be here for you! Love, Tatum Mamet and Honey Bee!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Happy 5th birthday to our brother, Ardonn Josiah! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come! We love you very much. Greetings come from Jylon, Aiyana, and Keanalise.



**SUMMARY ACADEMY** 

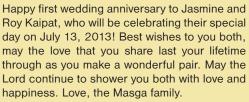
Belated

the world to us.

Participants of the 2013 Summary Academy for the CNMI College Access Grant conduct chest compressions on manikins in a classroom at the Northern Marianas College, Thursday, July 11, during an American Red Cross Hands-Only/Citizen CPR training. The one-hour introductory course equips participants with the basic knowledge and skills that is needed to help save a person in cardiac arrest.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO











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Documentation fees and registration not included.



## Article 11 initiative to replace MPLT with NMD Land Trust

Senate Vice President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) pre-filed a legislative initiative amending Article XI of the NMI Constitution to, among other things, replace the Marianas Public Land Trust with proposed Northern Marianas Descent Land Trust to manage and control public lands and funds from leases to benefit NMDs.

Hocog's Senate Legislative Initiative 18-1 also mandates

the creation of an NMD Credit Union by investing \$10 million of the principal for the credit union operating capital.

It also establishes an NMD Royalty Distribution that the

NMD Trust will administer

"It is the fundamental obligation of this body to protect and promote the economic interests and well being of all NMD and this proposed amendments to the Constitution will make it possible," Hocog said. "Time is of the essence and the 18th Legislature is perhaps the last august body that stands an excellent chance of passing this unprecedented legis-

lative initiative."

If passed by both the Senate and House, the initiative is to be placed before voters for ratification at the next general election, set for November 2014. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

## Trader facing sex abuse case approved to travel off-island

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Ho Jin Yoon, the owner of four retail stores on Saipan and a retail store in Guam who is facing charges of allegedly sexually abusing a female minor, has been allowed to travel offisland for business.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last week granted Yoon's request to change the conditions of his temporary release so he could travel to the Philippines, Guam, and South Korea.

Camacho ordered the Office of Adult Probation to maintain Yoon's passport and to give it to him upon his request with the presentation of his travel plans.

When asking for his passport, the judge said, Yoon shall present to the Office of Adult Probation his travel itinerary.

Camacho said that former lawmaker Oscar Babauta shall serve as Yoon's travel guardian who must accompany Yoon on all travels outside the CNMI.

Upon his return from a trip, the businessman shall report to the Office of Adult Probation and return his passport to the office.

Camacho noted that Yoon reaffirmed his waiver of extra-

dition and pledge of shares and assets as previously declared should he not be in court for his trial on Sept. 9, 2013.

In his request to the court, the 59-year-old Yoon said that he travels to the Philippines about 15 times per year to buy merchandise for his stores.

"I go personally because I choose the items to buy and I can bargain on the prices, both of which are important for the

businesses," he said.

Yoon said he also travels to South Korea to buy stocks for his stores and that he needs to be in Guam from time to time for the management of his store there.

Yoon requested permission to travel to these locations without returning to court each time to make a request.

In June 2013, the court allowed him to travel to Korea

and the Philippines.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Yoon with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, incest, assault and battery, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

Police arrested Yoon in March 2013 for allegedly sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl. He was released upon posting a \$50,000 cash bail.

Yoon denied the charges. He owns San Jose Mart, 99 Cents Supermarket, and Payless Supermarket.

Legal Notice

## PSS proposes \$8.7 million for new consolidated grant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education approved yesterday the submission of a grant application with the federal government for a new consolidated grant amounting to \$8.7 million for the new fiscal year.

This grant is among the regular federal assistance received by public schools each fiscal year under the Consolidated Grant Title VI.

According to federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, \$892,089 of the grant will be reserved for assessment while \$637,976 will fund the system's Heroes-to-Teach program, which has 29 personnel.

A total of \$360,144 will be set aside for state administration while \$6.8 million will be reserved for Title I Part A LEA activities.

Under this \$6.8 million, 13 percent—or \$889,555—will go to private schools while 87 percent—or \$5.9 million—is allocated for public schools.

Thornburgh reported that the \$5.9 million will be divvied up for the following projects and programs: class size reduction (\$1.017 million); PSS-wide programs (\$2 million); private school targeted assistance pro-

gram (\$503,555); public school targeted assistance program (\$550,000); Advance Placement programs (\$50,000); career and technical education program (\$200,000); monitoring and mentoring novice teacher (\$50,000); high school and junior high after-school program (\$100,000); and student competitions (\$300,000).

The proposed consolidated grant also includes funds reserved for teacher recruitment, retention and rewards, totaling \$100,000.

Educational technology will have \$1.7 million and includes networked computer/scanner/printers, \$443,000; distance education, \$803,000; and laptop project, \$500,000.

The professional development of teachers and personnel will get \$164,000, while funds reserved for parental involvement is \$62,000.

According to Thornburgh, the proposed consolidated grant of \$8.7 million, if approved, is an increase from the current fiscal year's award of \$8.4 million.

Prior to the end of each fiscal year, PSS has to submit a new funding proposal to the federal government to receive the funding assistance in the beginning of the new fiscal year, which is Oct. 1.

## Adults 18 years and Older

## Could Be Affected by a Class Action Settlement Involving Consumer Reporting

A Settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit involving certain reports sold by LexisNexis. If you are 18 years or older, you are probably included in the Settlement because there is likely information about you in the LexisNexis databases.

## What's this Case About?

The lawsuit claims that LexisNexis prepared and sold Accurint® searches and reports that were "consumer reports" under the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"). The lawsuit claims that LexisNexis failed to follow certain FCRA requirements that apply only to "consumer reports." LexisNexis disagrees that Accurint® reports are "consumer reports." Both sides have agreed to the Settlement to resolve the case and provide benefits to consumers.

## Who's Included?

If the databases used to prepare Accurint® brand products at any time between November 14, 2006 and April19, 2013 contained information about you, you are in the Class. The databases contain names and addresses of all U.S. residents who have a credit history, as well as information from many public records such as telephone directories, voter registration records, motor vehicle registrations, and mortgage records.

## What does the Settlement provide?

LexisNexis has agreed to design, implement, and maintain specific, substantial procedures that address the concerns raised in the lawsuit regarding the preparation and sale of Accurint® searches and reports to debt collectors. No money will be paid to Class Members.

## **Your Options**

If the Court approves the proposed Settlement, then you will be bound by the Court's decisions – you cannot exclude yourself from the class. You will not be able to sue, or continue to sue, LexisNexis for the limited remedies being resolved by this Settlement. However, you will be able to file a lawsuit on your own to pursue any claims for actual money damages. If you do not like the proposed Settlement, you must object by **August 30, 2013**, as discussed further at CollectionReportLawsuit.com.

The Court will hold a hearing on **October 3, 2013** to consider any objections, whether to approve the Settlement, and to award attorneys' fees and expenses up to \$5.5 million. You can appear at the hearing, but you don't have to. You can hire your own attorney, at your own expense, to appear or speak for you at the hearing. You must let the Court know by **August 30, 2013**, if you intend to do so.

## NMC-CREES to host 4-H 2013 Summer Camp

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service will host the 4-H 2013 Summer Fun Daytime Camp from July 22 to Aug. 2, 2013, from 8:30am to 11:30am.

The aim of the 4-H 2013 Summer Fun Daytime Camp is to provide hands-on activities that will help participants establish real-life goals to become responsible, productive citizens while having fun in the process.

4-H is a youth development program administered through the Cooperative Extension System of 109 land-grant universities in the U.S. and supports more than 6 million young people with programs designed to prepare the youth to step up to challenges in their community.

The camp, which will be held in Building G of the NMC As Terlaje campus, will focus on agriculture and will be open to children between the ages of 8 to 12. Parents and legal guardians may register their children for the camp until Thursday, July 18, 2013. The fee for the camp is \$30 and space is limited. To register or to get more information, contact Polly Omechelang at 285-3240. (NMC)

For more information: 1-888-538-5784 CollectionReportLawsuit.com

## Red Cross encourages preparedness for typhoon season

As the typhoon season begins in the Marianas region, the American Red Cross urges the community to begin preparations now.

"Because we know that our region is at risk every year, it is vital that we work to keep our families safe by preparing for typhoon season before it even starts. Taking a few moments to discuss some simple, common-sense preparedness steps with your family can save your life and the lives of the ones you love," said J.D. Tenorio, the Emergency Services director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

"With typhoons, in a way, we are fortunate, because advance warning systems give us time to evacuate threatened areas when a storm is imminent," Tenorio said. "However, instead of waiting until a storm is threatening our community, the time to prepare is now."

### **STORM PREPARATION**

The Red Cross recommends steps people can take as a storm approaches our area. Check disaster supplies and replace or restock needed items, bring anything inside that can be picked up by the wind and to fill the car up with gas. Other steps include:

Close windows, doors and typhoon shutters. If shutters are not available, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.

■ Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so food will last longer if the power goes out.

■ Turn off any propane tanks and unplug small appliances.

• Create or update your household typhoon evacuation plan and go over it with members of the household.

■ Call the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or the Public

School System for shelter locations ahead of time.

Have a plan for your household pets. Make sure they are in a safe place and that they have enough water and food to last them through

the typhoon.

More information about what to do during and after a storm is available on redcross.org.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. (ARC)



**QUARTERLY SHINDIG** 

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Food and Beverage Service employees, together with the kitchen staff, held their quarterly get-together on June 25, 2013, at the Rose Karaoke Bar. The party allows them to unwind and relax from their daily routine and bond together. They do parlor games and singing contests, complete with raffle drawing that ensures that everyone gets something at the end of the party.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND AT SEAPORT, PORT OF SAIPAN.

CPA-IFB-001-13

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration companies for Preventive Maintenance Service of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Seaport, Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning July 08, 2013 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Bid Package includes the Scope of Work and other bid considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Scope of Work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

The term of the Preventive Maintenance Services shall be for two (2) years. Performance and Payment Bonds will be required for this project and the cost of acquiring the bonds should be included in the bid price.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Seaport, Port of Saipan, CPA-IFB-001-13." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 09, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

All bids will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) price, (2) company experience, (3) sufficiency and experience of workers, (4) schedule of operations, (5 ability to obtain insurance requirements, and (6) financial capability to provide required spare parts and supplies.

Bidders are required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements; copies of the insurance requirements are included in the scope of work

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room, Port of Saipan at 10:00 a.m., July 23, 2013, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A walk through of the Seaport facility will follow immediately after the conference. A subsequent walk through of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will follow the next day, July 24, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.. Only bidders present at the pre-bid conference will be allowed to submit bids. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670)234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Bidders will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This IFB and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA Acting Executive Director



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONSTRUCTION OF 300K GALLON TANK REPLACEMENT FOR PAPAGO TANK

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of a 300K Gallon Tank Replacement for Papago Tank for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

The selected firm shall have experience in construction and design of pre-stressed concrete and or welded steel water storage tanks. The work consists of demolition of the existing glass-fused, steel bolted 0.50 million gallon tank and its foundation; construction of the new 300K gallon tank as per approved design, foundation, tank appurtenances, and yard piping and connections.

The project is to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of contract award.

The Bid Tender Documents may be secured, upon receipt of payment by the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card of \$100.00. The payment is non-refundable. The payment receipt shall be presented to the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on July 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Safety & Compliance Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 14, Joeten Dandan, Commercial Building.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This Invitation for Bids and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-021, Construction of 300K Gallon Tank Replacement for Papago Tank" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (Ch5T) on August 6, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Insufficient copies of bid submitted can be subject to technical default and rejection of bid.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) and a Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. For the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract, the Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurer questions, concerns and qualification shall be governed by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Section 002113 - Instructions to Bidders.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 19, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org & Christi Lazaro, Water Division Assistant Engineer via email Christi.lazaro@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth utilities Corporation.

> ALAN FLETCHER Acting Executive Director

## 10 learn the art, importance of reading aloud to kids

Ten center-based teachers and staff underwent a two-part Teacheread Storysharing training that started at the Northern Marianas Humanities Council office conference room and was concluded at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The first part was held on June 22, 2013, and the second was on June 29, 2013.

The 12-hour Teacheread training is a locally developed program modeled on the Motheread storysharing curriculum that enhances participants' skills in developing children's literacy skills.

In the training, Motheread/ Fatheread trainers affirmed the significant role of the participants in teaching the children they serve how to express their needs effectively, communicate thoughts and ideas, and entering the world of formal education.

A research study done in 1985 by the U.S. Department of Education's Commission on Reading was also presented to the training participants. This study reported two primary findings: 1) "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." 2) The commission found conclusive evidence to support reading aloud not only in the home but also in the classroom: "It is a practice that should continue throughout the grades."



RAMY SALCEDO

Ten center-based teachers and staff are presented with their certificates of completion after attending a two-part Teacheread Storysharing training.

Motheread/Fatheread trainers and participants had a lively discussion on the importance of reading aloud to children and the impact on children's literacy skills. They concluded that reading aloud exposes them to: a positive reading role model, the pleasures of reading, rich vocabulary, good grammar, book language, richly textured lives outside their own experiences,

and new information about the world they lived in.

Participants also reviewed the storysharing framework and were given an opportunity to use the storysharing techniques gained in the training. As part of the 12-hour training requirements, participants presented storybooks to the children at the public library. This time, the participants worked in pairs to

encourage greater creativity in the delivery of the stories. Two participants used the puppet theater medium as a means to make the story come alive, delighting the audience, children and adults alike.

Participants for this recent training cycle were: Imelda Bautista, Flordeliza Flores, Levi Sobremisana, Ma.Grace Rosete, Margarita Sugaste, Ramy

Salcedo, Rosalinda Limjoco, Ana Liza Quimabao, Rhona Martinez, and Remedio Pangelinan. Motheread certified trainers were Viola Deleon Guerrero and Angelina Yobech.

The training was made possible through the collaboration between the DCCA- Child Care Development Fund Program and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. The next

Teacheread training cycle is scheduled on July 20 and July 27. The first part's venue is at the Humanities office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. For more information on Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program schedules and activities, call (670) 235-7319; 989-8542 (cell), or text 789-6601 and or e-mail us at cnmimotheread@ gmail.com. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## **OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR PUBLIC NOTICE



Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its FY 2013 Special Membership Meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, San Jose Village. Tinian. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

## Preliminary Agenda

Presiding - Thomas J. Camacho, Chairman

- Welcome & Introduction of new Member & Guests
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of April 18, 2013 2nd Quarterly Meeting Minutes & Special Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2013
- Correspondence
- Public Comment on Agenda Items
- - Saipan Fixed-Flex Route & Paratransit System Feasibility Study: Update
  - New Office Space Lease Agreement: Update COTA's Propose Changes to HB. 18-39, "Parking Meter Act": Status
  - Sustainable Transportation Master Plan: Status
  - Transportation Management Software & Vehicle Tracking System: Status
  - New Office Modular Office Furniture & Partition: Status
  - Saipan-Tinian Ferry Boat Feasibility Study: Status
  - $Community\ Transportation\ Association\ of\ American\ (CTAA)/USDA\ Long-Term\ Technical\ Assistance\ Application:\ Status\ Application and the property of t$ Environmental Management System (EMS) Training & Technical Assistance: Update
  - Easter Seals Project ACTION's Accessible Transportation Technical Support (ATTS) Project Application: Approved
  - CTAA \$20,000 Grant Application: Transit Planning 4 All-Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnership To Promote Community Living: Status
  - New Office Cleaning Service: Status

## VIII. New Business

- A. FY 2013 Rural Formula Grant Full Apportionment Amendment: Action
- Propose Public School System and COTA Memorandum of Agreement: Action Propose Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan: Action
- Propose Transportation Marketing Plan: Action
- COTA Website Redesign and Maintenance Service: Information WIA: Youth Summer Training Program: Information
- G. National Membership Affiliation Application Status: Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) ii. American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

## IX. Financial Status Report

A. Staff Training Certifications: Update

- B. Program Income
- Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) II Grant One-Call/One-Click Transportation Service Center
- Transportation Marketing, Outreach and Planning

- A. FY 2013 Rural Formula Grant Full Apportionment XI. Executive Session: CPTAB may vote to go into executive session as provided under the CNMI Open Government Act
- Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE), FHwA ii. PASS: Passenger Service and Safety Certified Training Program, CTAA
- XIII. Next Meeting: October 17, 2013 XIV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA three (3) days in advance at 664-2292.

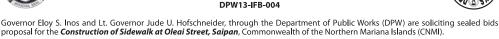
## /S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO, Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant No. MP-04-002.00, U.S. Department of Transporta-



Commonwealth of the Porthern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works 2nd Noor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 9695(

## INVITATION FOR BIDS



The project package will be available on or after July 5, 2013 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on July 16, 2013 at 09;00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Oleai Street, Oleai Elementary School Entrance, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4;30 p.m. local time on July 19, 2013 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, Oleai Commercial Center, Suite 214 or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW13-IFB-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 24, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 24, 2013, and be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 24, 2013, and must be received no later than July 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, August 02, 2013, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received form bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 25, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the **Northern Marianas Island Administrative Code Section 70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, and

b)Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract

Acceptable assets are only:

- US Government Securities
  Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US \$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN Secretary of Public Works

/s/HFRMAN S SARI AN Director Procurement and Supply

## Competition between local, industrial fishers heats up in Pacific

Increased competition for tuna is causing tension between local fishers and industrial vessels in some Pacific Islands, and the heads of Pacific Island fisheries departments have tasked the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to examine the issue.

The problem occurs when industrial vessels compete with small-scale local fisheries ("artisanal fisheries") for the same fish, in the same area and the same season. It is worse in areas where the industrial catch is large.

Dr. Shelton Harley, head of the Oceanic Fisheries Program's Stock Assessment and Modeling group at SPC, says three recent changes have the potential to cause the current concerns, including an increase in fishing activity.

"There are now fewer fish in the water to catch," he says. "More fish are being taken than ever before by the industrial fleet, and more of the industrial catch is being taken closer to artisanal fishing grounds."

"Taken together, these three factors can bring industrial fishing operations directly into competition with artisanal operations."

In tropical waters, competition is for skipjack and yellowfin tuna. Increasing use of fish aggregating devices means industrial vessels are accidentally catching more of the other species important to the artisanal fisheries, such as mahi mahi, wahoo and rainbow runner.

In sub-tropical areas, industrial longline vessels target albacore tuna, but take as bycatch fish such as yellowfin and wahoo that are also important to local fishers.

Harley says a balance has to be found between the interests of industrial and artisanal fisheries, and suggests a number of

"These include the establish-

ment of industrial fishing exclusion zones, the installation of near-shore FADs to make fish more accessible to artisanal fishers, and improving our understanding of the activities of small-scale fisheries," he says.

SPC will work individually with Pacific nations to identify the extent of the problem and the changes they can make to resolve these issues. Harley says that SPC will also work with regional organizations on possible management actions.

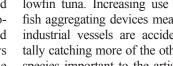
Deirdre Brogan, a fisheries monitoring supervisor with SPC, says scientists don't fully understand how fishers who usually fish close to shore will be affected, and need more information on them.

"Fishers are more vocal when they see large vessels on the horizon, or when their own catches are low, but these can be temporary or seasonal variations. Other unrelated factors may affect their catch," she says.

SPC has published a new policy brief to alert Pacific Island nations to the problem and how it can help find possible solutions.

Dr Harley says that despite the shortages artisanal fishers may be feeling, scientists' estimates show that fish stocks are still at "biologically healthy" levels. (SPC)

## 12 teams take on Firefighter Fitness Challenge tomorrow



A total of 12 teams will take part in tomorrow's Inaugural CNMI Firefighter Fitness Challenge at the CPA Airport Field.

Aside from the firemen of Saipan's five fire stations—Garapan, Susupe, San Roque, Koblerville, and Kagman—also taking part in the challenge are three organizations: Trench Tech, Hoopaholics, and Gold's Gym.

The competition will start at

9:30am and will have the 12 teams hurdling 10 obstacle courses. It will include regular utility tests conducted by firefighters, including the house drag, dummy pull, and Kaiser Sled.

Teams should be made up of five-man rosters and entrance fee is \$150. Registration forms are still available at the Garapan Fire Station and Safety 1st System.

The Inaugural CNMI Firefighter Fitness Challenge is made possible by the CNMI Fire & EMS Association, United Basketball Association, Hoopaholics, Oceanside Bar & Grill, Gold's Gym, and Safety 1st System.

For more information, call Jocelyn Sablan at 898-5781 or Jack Camacho at 287-3467. (Saipan Tribune)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation **JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

JVA No. 13-038

Opening Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 Closing Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013

## Engineer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems or his/her designee. Designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned pieces of projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Maintains project files; prepares related correspondence. Prepares design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Drafts a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assists with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment/work analysis. Performs research for Senior Engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION(S): Power Generation on <u>Saipan</u>, Northern Mariana Islands, USA

SALARY: \$36,257.00 - \$59,871.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted. POSITION(S):

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and four years of related engineering experience. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State. and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

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### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation **JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

JVA No. 13-042

Opening Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 Closing Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013



### **Engineering Technician**

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Prepare apparatuses, devices, and equipment for use on projects to include inspecting and testing. Perform routine field duties to include measurements, assisting with staking collecting field data, checking on actual conditions and orientation of facilities, logging, and engineering and operations support assignments. Perform drafting duties using AutoCAD including producing or revising drawings, gathering and collecting data to be incorporated into drawings, producing or editing graphs and charts, providing design assistance, and interfacing with GIS. Inventory materials and supplies. Research product data and updates and upgrades of equipment and software. Perform other duties of a

LOCATION(S): Water & Wastewater Divisions, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$13,625.00 - \$25,231.00 per annum. Not Contracted

CONTRACT: POSITION(S): One (1)

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and three years of experience in the water/wastewater industry or related experience. Knowledge of: AutoCAD programs; mathematics; basic surveying and engineering concepts. Skill in: Preparing engineering drawings using CADD; preparing charts and graphs; performing mathematical calculations, collecting field data; solving problems; using computers and Microsoft WORD and EXCEL software applications; communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 13-044

Opening Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 Closing Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Design, execute coordinate, and oversee assigned projects; adhere to applicable specifications and standards Manage water and sewer facilities projects. Perform construction contract management and serve as contract technical representative. Assist the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provide technical information on projects; report on project and contract status. Maintain project files: prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate water and sewer system needs and perform engineering ing and equipment analysis. Perform research for design, construction, and system performance. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level. Assist with system operation and maintenance as required.

Engineer

\$36,257.00 - \$59,871.00 per annum SALARY:

Not Contracted CONTRACT: POSITION(S): Three (3)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering and four years of related engineering experience. Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering is also acceptable if candidate has four years of experience engineering water and/or wastewater systems. Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wastewater conveyance and treatment concepts; project managemen principles; construction techniques; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations. Skill in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading, understanding, and preparing drawings for construction contracts: preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to: use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, contractors, representatives of other agencies and departments, and the general public to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction; use AutoCAD to prepare plans for utility projects and contracts is a plus. Registration as an Engineer-In-Training in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is preferred but not required. Applicants licensed as a Professional Engineer in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States are encouraged to apply. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Free Friday child-friendly films at AMP

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films every Friday at 2pm in the Visitors Center auditorium. Come to the park and enjoy!

From July to August, the featured films are UP, How To Train Your Dragon, Meet the Robinsons, Robots, Dinosaurs, Shrek, and Toy Story 3. (PR)

### Free art class at AMP

The American Memorial Park presents a free art class called "Art project: Reminisce the Battle for the Marianas (70th Anniversary)." Registration forms will be available at the American Memorial Park from 10am to 4pm. For more information, contact Rhea Beake at 287-7052 or email her at handfularts2012@gmail.com. (PR)

## Kluge to speak about Saipan

Acclaimed novelist P.F. Kluge will be the featured speaker at a reception hosted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Fiesta Resort and Spa on Friday, July 26, from 6pm to 9pm.

His talk, "Saipan Then, Saipan Now, Saipan Tomorrow," will draw on his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer on Saipan from 1967 to 1969 and his numerous return visits to the island over the intervening half-century.

Tickets for this event are priced at \$25 per person and come with beer, wine, a variety of tasty hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to win an autographed copy of Kluge's latest novel, The Master Blaster.

Tickets may be purchased from council board members and staff or at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai.

## MHS Class of '93 Family Fun Day Picnic

The MHS Class of 1993 reunion committees would like to invite all classmates to a family picnic at the Aquarius Beach (behind Aquarius Beach Hotel and Townhouse Department Store in Susupe) this Saturday, July, 13, 2013, from 10am to 6pm. For more information, call Vivian Sablan at 288-1129 or Maryann Arriola at 483-2279. (PR)

## Water outage in Koblerville today

Residents of Koblerville will experience a nine-hour partial water outage today, July 12, 2013, from 8am to 5pm, to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc. to replace non-working gate valves along Alaguan St., Asentukon St., and Adobu Dr. The partial water outage will affect residents living on Adobu Dr. and Alaguan St. For more information, contact project manager yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. (CUC)

## **Red Cross trainings set**

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- July 16 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED
- July 18 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (ARC)

## Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

The U.S. Marines will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 12, from 8am to 10pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the time and date indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation **JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Opening Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 Closing Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013

## Junior Engineer

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee Designs sanitation facilities and oversees the completion of assigned tasks. Executes and coordinates portions of assigned projects and tasks; adhere to applicable specifications and standards. Manage assigned aspects of water and sewer facilities projects. Perform construction inspection. Support operations with technical assistance; collect, maintain, and organize operational data for engineering analysis. Maintain project files; prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft parts of a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate water and sewer system needs and analysis Perform research for des operations support. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level

LOCATION(S): Water & Wastewater Divisions, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA \$24,000.00 - \$35,000.00 per annum. SALARY:

CONTRACT: Not Contracted POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil or Environmental Engineer ing. Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering is also acceptable if candidate has one year of experience engineering water and/or wastewater systems. Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wast ter conveyance and treatment concepts. Knowledge of and ability to use AutoCAD is a plus. Knowledge of and skill with GIS is preferred but not required. Skill in: organizing, collecting information and evaluating data; preparing and presenting technical information for reports and/or documentation:: estimating construction costs: conducting studies. Able to: read and understand construction drawings; able to read and interpret specifications; use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, and contractors to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013 19

## **Business**

## Bernanke: US economy still needs Fed's stimulus

WASHINGTON (AP)— Chairman Ben Bernanke said Wednesday that the U.S. economy still needs help from the Federal Reserve's low interest rate policies.

Bernanke told the National Bureau of Economic Research that because unemployment remains high and inflation is below the Fed's target, the policies are still necessary. He also said the economy is being held back by higher taxes and federal spending cuts.

"If you put all of that together, you can only conclude that highly accommodative mon-

etary policy for the foreseeable future is what is needed for the U.S. economy," Bernanke said.

Bernanke's comments were his latest effort to stress that the Fed will continue to stimulate the economy, even after it begins to slow \$85-billion-amonth in bond purchases that have kept long-term interest rates down.

The Fed plans to keep its investment holdings constant to avoid causing long-term rates to rise too quickly. It also plans to keep short-term rates at record lows at least until unemployment slides to 6.5 percent.

## BankPacific celebrates 59th years of service

BankPacific celebrates 59 years of service to the community to-day, July 12, at all of its offices. Customers and non-customers alike are invited to stop in for refreshments and a good time.

BankPacific opened its doors on

July 7, 1954, in Hagatña, Guam, and has grown to serve with four offices in Guam and one each on Saipan and in Palau. Next year, the bank's 60th, will culminate with the completion of its three year renovation project in Hagatna. (*PR*)

## The Islamic month of Ramadan and prayer breaks

uestion: I am an observant Muslim and I am obligated by my faith to pray during work hours. My employer does not understand Islam and I am afraid to bring the subject up. What can I do?

I received this question two years ago and enswered

I received this question two years ago and answered it in an article published on July 26, 2011. This article follows that earlier one very closely. I haven't written an article in over a year and wouldn't normally start up again with a rewrite of an old topic. However, unless I missed it, I have not seen any notice in either paper of that very special time for our Islamic community that I wrote about before.

I take great pride in my adopted home and appreciate my acceptance as a member of its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious community. I feel that it is important to recognize the significance of the month of Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, which began this year on July 9. This month is considered a holy month by those of the Islamic faith, as it is the month when Allah, the Islamic name for God, revealed the first verses of the Qur'an (the Islamic holy book) to the Prophet Mohamed in 610 AD. During this month observant Muslims fast throughout the daylight period, going without food or drink from sunrise to sunset, each day of the lunar month. Fasting is required by the Qur'an and is intended to teach Muslims about patience, humility, and spirituality. I will talk a little more about Ramadan later in the article but let me address again the human resource issue of prayer in the workplace that was the reason for the earlier article.

My first advice to Muslim employees is to not underestimate the understanding and consideration of your employer—especially as the performance of *Salah*, prayer or, more correctly, connection with Allah, does not necessarily have to conflict with work. I recommend that you speak to your supervisor and to your HR officer about your prayer needs. Good communication is the most important step in resolving any situation, and you won't know how far your employer will go to address your prayer needs until you bring the matter up. Remember, Saipan is a very religious community and the respect for religion and the love of God, Allah, Jehovah, Yaweh is almost universal in its citizens.

Although I spent eight years in Saudi Arabia and one year in Egypt, I don't consider myself an expert on Islam. To make sure that my information was correct for my previous article, I spoke before with the Hafez Maulana (the title of a respected and educated Islamic scholar who has completely memorized the Qur'an) Kamal Hossain, the *imam* (worship leader) of the Garapan Mosque. I visited him again to ensure that I had not made any errors before, and he said that the article had been accurate and had been appreciated by the community. The Hafez Maulana, accompanied by Ferdues Alam Bhuyan, a member of the mosque's congregation, were again very generous with their help and time. Any mistakes in this article, however, are mine, despite my best efforts to be accurate.

Offering *Salah* five times each day is an obligation of the Islamic faith. It is not voluntary and is an ongoing obligation that must be performed every day of the year, not just during the month of Ramadan. However, with the five acts of *Salah* occurring (1) *Fajr*: thirty minutes before sunrise, (2) *Dhuhr*: shortly after noon (from 12:30 to 3pm), (3) 'Asr: late afternoon (from 4:30pm to about 5:45pm,

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

**CNMI GOVERNMENT** 

**INVITATION TO BID** 

ITB NO.: ITB13-DPS-139-FOB SAIPAN

cover the 12:30pm to 12:45pm period. Shift workers might require a special break or an adjustment to a meal or rest break to accommodate the time for *Salah*. Prayer times change depending upon the season and the times for sunrise and sunset. For those employers who might not be aware, Friday is the Islamic "day of gathering" for formal services at the mosque, comparable to Sunday services for the Christian faith.

What does an employee need? A clean, quiet place should be provided for prayer, if at all possible. However, if necessary, *Salah* can be performed in the workplace or even outside, in good weather. Access to water for cleansing hands, feet and other parts of the body is also necessary prior to prayer, but sand or even clean earth can

(4) Maghrib: five minutes after sunset, and (5) Isha: before retiring

for the night (about 8pm), only the midday prayer occurs during

the workday for most workers. The Dhuhr Salah can usually be

performed during the lunch break with the break being arranged to

Salah is not a lengthy event and usually lasts only 5-10 minutes. I have been told that many employees hesitate to ask their employers for time-off (if no breaks are given), or for a schedule adjustment, or a place for prayer, for fear of action being taken against them or even losing their jobs. An employee should not have to choose between their religious beliefs and their need for a job. The law provides protections against religious discrimination, harass-

replace the water in a ritual act of cleansing, if necessary. Fellow

employees should respect and not interrupt a person who is praying.

ment, or retaliation.

The following is quoted from the EEOC publication, *Questions and Answers about the Workplace Rights of Muslims, Arabs, South Asians, and Sikhs under the Equal Employment Opportunity Laws*: "When an employer's workplace policies interfere with its employee's religious practices, the employee can ask for something called a 'reasonable accommodation.' A 'reasonable accommodation' is a change in a workplace rule or policy to let you engage in a religious practice. Your employer is required to provide you with such an accommodation unless it would impose an undue hardship on the employer's business. This means the employer is not required to provide an accommodation that is too costly or difficult to provide. The key is that you should work closely with your employer in finding an appropriate accommodation." (http:// www.eeoc.gov/facts/backlash-employee.html)

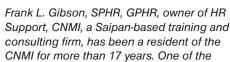
To the employers: I know that most employers will do everything possible to accommodate an employee's religious obligations. If it is not considered possible to do so, the burden would be on the employer to show that the accommodation is too costly or difficult to provide. If the accommodation requires extra time-off beyond normal breaks, the employee can be required to make up the extra time. I think it is important to note that the Hafez Maulana said that none of his congregation had indicated that they were having problems with their work regarding prayer time. Congratulations are due to Saipan's employers!

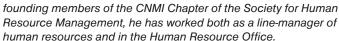
To the employees: As I said before, communicate your needs to your employer. Work with your supervisor and the company HR officer to develop a workable accommodation. If they do not know about the Islamic faith and its requirements, go that extra step and provide them with some information. We live in a wonderful multi-

## **HR MATTERS**

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune





cultural community. Flexibility and consideration are two of the keys to its success.

A few more words about the month of Ramadan: fasting during the month of Ramadan and performing *Salah* five times daily are two of the five major tenets or "pillars" of the Islamic faith. They are obligations, not voluntary acts. All adults and children, 12 years of age and older, must fast. Children may be allowed to fast only half day if it becomes difficult for them. Adults who are elderly, hospitalized, mentally or medically unable to fast, pregnant or menstruating women, and nursing mothers may be excused, but must make up the fast at a later date or feed the poor in place of fasting. Ramadan is considered a time for reflecting, believing, and worshiping God. It also teaches Muslims to practice self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate and encourages actions of generosity and charity.

Understandably, going without food or drink all day can be difficult. Supervisors should look out for the welfare of their fasting employees, especially if the job is outside or is physically strenuous. Fellow employees should recognize the importance and the hardship of the month of Ramadan to their friends and support them in their fast. Recognize that they may be a little more irritable than usual and might not want to sit down to lunch with them during this period. Really, don't tempt them with a lot of goodies to see if they will cave in. At sunset each day family or friends will gather and will break their fast after the *Maghrib Salah* with the *Iftar* meal.

The lunar month of Ramadan will last 29 days and will end with the holiday of Eid al-Fitr (the Festival of Breaking the Fast), marking the end of the fasting period and the first day of the new month. On the Eid a special celebration is made. Food is donated to the poor, everyone puts on their best, usually new, clothes, and communal prayers are held in the early morning, followed by feasting and visiting relatives and friends.

We too often overemphasize and sometimes fear the differences we perceive. That can often be the cause of undesirable discrimination. Recognizing the ways we are alike is more important. Don't hesitate to greet a Muslim member of our community with a friendly "Salaam Aleikum," which translates to the "Pax Vobiscum" or "Peace be with you" greeting of the Christian members of our community. If they greet you first, reply with "wa Aleikum Assalaam," which means "and Peace be with you."

The Hafez Maulana had told me that there were about 400 members of the Islamic faith in the CNMI. I would like to wish each of them *Ramadan Mubarak* (Blessed Ramadan).



## SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 23, 2013 TIME: 11:00 A.M. "PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE MOTORCYCLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CMMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

## "OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, TINIAN BRANCH"

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THE BIDDER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5 SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

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/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ MAYOR OF TINIAN

/S/ JOSE P. CRUZ RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 23, 2013 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"FABRICATION OF EIGHT (8) FISH AGGREGATING
DEVICE (FAD) BUOYS FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION
OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS SECRETARY OF DLNR /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

## Nation

## Boston bombing suspect pleads not guilty

**BOSTON** (AP)—His arm in a cast and his face swollen, a blase-looking Dzhokhar Tsarnaev pleaded not guilty Wednesday in the Boston Marathon bombing in a seven-minute proceeding that marked his first appearance in public since his capture in mid-April.

As survivors of the bombing looked on, Tsarnaev, 19, gave a small, lopsided smile to his two sisters upon arriving in the courtroom. He appeared to have a jaw injury and there was swelling around his left eye and cheek.

Leaning into the microphone, he told a federal judge, "Not guilty" in his Russian accent and said it over and over as the charges were read. Then he was led away in handcuffs, making a kissing gesture toward his family with his lips. One of his sisters sobbed loudly, resting her head on a woman seated next to her.

Tsarnaev, who has been hospitalized since his capture with wounds suffered in a shootout and getaway attempt, faces 30 federal charges, including using a weapon of mass destruction to kill, in connection with the April 15 attack that left three people dead and more than 260 wounded. He could

get the death penalty if prosecutors choose to pursue it.

The proceedings took place in a heavily guarded courtroom packed not only with victims but with their families, police officers, and members of the public and the media.

The Russian immigrant and former college student looked much as he did in a photo widely circulated after his arrest, his hair curly and unkempt. Wearing an orange prison jumpsuit, he appeared nonchalant, almost bored, during the hearing. The cast covered his left forearm, hand and fingers.

The bombing victims showed little reaction in the courtroom after a federal marshal warned them against any outbursts.

Liz Norden, the mother of two men who lost their right legs in the bombings, said afterward: "I actually felt sick to my stomach."

MIT Police Chief John Di-Fava, who was also in the courtroom, said Tsarnaev looked "smug."

"I didn't see a lot of remorse. I didn't see a lot of regret," he said. "It just seemed to me that if I was in that position, I would have been a lot more nervous, certainly scared."



This courtroom sketch depicts Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev standing with his lawyer Judy Clarke, left, before Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler, right, during his arraignment in federal court Wednesday, July 10, 2013 in Boston.

gun battle with police three days

after the attack. Dzhokhar Tsar-

to see him. I wanted to see the person that so coldly and callously killed four people, one of whom being an officer of mine."

Authorities say Tsarnaev orchestrated the bombing along with his older brother, Tamerlan DiFava added: "I just wanted Tsarnaev, who died following a

of the Boston area.

naev was arrested on April 19, hiding in a bloodstained boat in a suburban backyard after a manhunt that paralyzed much

in the killing of a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer and the carjacking of a motorist during their getaway attempt.

His two sisters were in court in Muslim garb. One was carrying a baby; the other wiped away tears with a tissue. Tsarnaev's parents remained back

Tsarnaev's lawyer Judy Clarke, an expert in death penalty cases, asked that the judge enter not-guilty pleas for him, but U.S. Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler said: "I would ask him to answer."

On the same day as the arraignment, Boston's police commissioner appeared on Capitol Hill and complained to a Senate panel that the Justice Department failed to share information on terrorism threats with local officials before the bombing.

"There is a gap with information sharing at a higher level while there are still opportunities to intervene in the planning of these terrorist events," Commissioner Edward F. Davis III said.

Reporters and spectators began lining up for seats in the courtroom at 7:30 a.m. as a dozen Federal Protective Service officers and bomb-sniffing dogs surrounded the courthouse. Four hours before the 3:30 p.m. hearing, the defendant arrived at the courthouse in a four-vehicle motorcade.

About a dozen Tsarnaev supporters cheered as the motorcade arrived. The demonstrators yelled, "Justice for Jahar!" as Tsarnaev is known. One woman held a sign that said, "Free Jahar."

## Investigators look into pairing of Asiana pilots

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As Flight 214 descended over San Francisco Bay, both Asiana Airlines pilots were trying something new.

In the left seat of the cockpit sat Lee Gang-kuk, a 46-year-old pilot with just 35 hours of experience flying a Boeing 777 who was landing the big jet for his first time at San Francisco International Airport. At his right was Lee Jeong-Min, a trainer making his first trip as an instructor pilot.

While the two men had years of aviation experience, this mission involved unfamiliar duties, and it was the first time they had flown together. The flight came to a tragic end when the airliner crash-landed Saturday, killing two passengers and injuring many others.

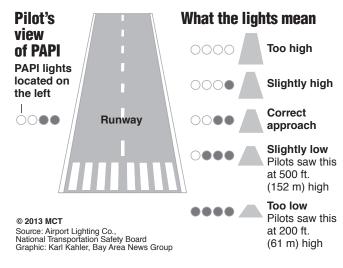
National Transportation Safety Board chairman Deborah Hersman said Wednesday the pilot told investigators he was blinded by a light at about 500 feet, which would have been 34 seconds before impact and the point at which the airliner began to slow and drop precipitously. She said lasers have not been ruled out.

It was unclear, however, if the flash might have played a role in the crash.

The agency also said that after the crash landing, passengers were told to stay seated while the crew contacted the control

## **Airport's altitude warning**

The pilots aboard Asiana Flight 214 knew they were coming in too low because of precision approach path indicator lights along the runway at San Francisco International Airport. PAPI systems use red and white lights to tell pilots whether they are coming in too low, too high or just right.



tower, and people did not begin fleeing the aircraft until 90 seconds later when a fire was spotted outside the plane.

At that point, the doors were opened and escape slides were inflated. Two flight attendants were pinned by slides that inflated inside during the impact.

Experts say investigators trying to piece together what went wrong will consider the report about the light and many other factors including the pairing of the pilots, who were assigned to work together through a tightly regulated system developed after several deadly crashes in the 1980s that were blamed in part on inexperience in the cockpit.

The NTSB "is definitely going to focus on what type of policy Asiana had in terms of crew pairing," former NTSB Chairman James Hall said. "That's what the airline needs to do, be responsible so that in the cockpit you're matching the best people, especially when you're introducing someone to a new aircraft."

Pilots are typically paired by management and are not allowed to choose their partners in the cockpit.

Tsarnaev is also charged Bush nudges GOP on immigration as lawmakers meet WASHINGTON (AP)—Di-

vided on immigration, House Republicans bluntly challenged President Barack Obama's willingness to secure the nation's borders on Wednesday, and appeared unimpressed by George W. Bush's advice to carry a "benevolent spirit" into a debate

that includes a possible path to citizenship for millions.

Emerging from a closed-door meeting, GOP leaders affirmed a step-by-step approach to immigration but offered neither specifics nor a timetable-nor any mention

of possible citizenship for an estimated 11 million immigrants living in the country unlawfully.

Instead, in a written statement noting that the White House recently delayed a key part of the health care law, Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and other leaders said the action raised concerns that the administration "cannot be trusted to deliver on its promises to secure the border and enforce laws as part of a single, massive bill like the one passed by the Senate."

Lawmakers streaming out of the two-hour meeting said Bush's long-distance advice had not come up in a discussion that focused instead on the importance of securing the nation's borders and a general distrust of Obama.

The former president's ability to sway a new generation of House conservatives was a matter of considerable doubt, especially because many of the tea party-backed lawmakers have risen to power since he left the White House and are strongly

on record in opposition to any citizenship provision.

"We care what people back home say, not what some president former says," declared Rep. Tim Huelskamp, a second-term Kansas Republican who has

clashed with the party leadership in the House.

Still, the timing and substance of Bush's remarks were reminders of the imperative that many national party leaders feel that Republicans must broaden their appeal among Hispanic voters to compete successfully in future presidential elections. President Barack Obama took more than 70 percent of their votes in winning a second term last fall.

"America can be a lawful society and a welcoming society at the same time," Bush said at a naturalization ceremony at his presidential library in Dallas.

For their part, Democrats quickly embraced the former president's message, challenging House Speaker John Boeh-

The meeting in the Capitol was arranged as a listening session for the House GOP, their first such meeting since the Senate approved sweeping legislation last month on a bipartisan vote of 68-32.

ner to proceed in the same spirit.

Lawmakers said after the session there was strong support for a bill to create a path to citizenship for immigrants who were brought to the country as children illegally by family members, an idea advanced by Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia. Rep. Robert Goodlatte, R-Va.., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said his panel would soon begin work on legislation covering that group.

Several members of the rank and file said Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., had made a particularly strong appeal for a comprehensive approach, which includes possible citizenship for the 11 million.

But others emphasized there was virtually no support for the Senate's approach of one sweeping measure that dealt with immigration in all its forms.

Nor was there a clear timetable. "I don't sense any urgency," said Rep. John Fleming of Louisiana. Rep. Peter King of New York said that if any legislation came to the floor for a vote this month, it would deal only with border security.



## Asia

## Japan: Radioactive water likely leaking to the Pacific

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's nuclear regulator says radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima power plant is probably leaking into the Pacific Ocean, a problem long suspected by experts but denied by the plant's operator.

Officials from the Nuclear Regulation Authority said a leak is "strongly suspected" and urged plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. to determine where the water may be leaking from and assess the environmental and other risks, including the impact on the food chain. The watchdog said Wednesday it would form

a panel of experts to look into ways to contain the problem.

The watchdog's findings underscore TEPCO's delayed response in dealing with a problem that experts have long said existed. On Wednesday, the company continued to raise doubts about whether a leak exists.

TEPCO spokesman Noriyuki Imaizumi said the increase in cesium levels in monitoring well water samples does not necessarily mean contaminated water from the plant is leaking to the ocean. TEPCO was running another test on water samples and suspects earlier spikes might have been caused by cesium-laced dust slipping into the samples, he said. But he said TEPCO is open to the watchdog's suggestions to take safety steps.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi plant was ravaged by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and TEPCO has used massive amounts of water to cool the damaged reactors since then. Repeated leaks of the contaminated water stored on site have hampered decommissioning efforts.

Marine biologists warned that the radioactive water may be leaking continuously into the sea from underground, citing high radioactivity in fish samples taken near the plant.

Since May, TEPCO has reported spikes in cesium levels in underground water collected from a coastal observation pit, while the water-soluble element strontium showed high levels in seawater samples taken in areas just off the coast of the plant. The company says most of the contamination has been there since the 2011 accident.

TEPCO has said it has detected "no significant impact" on the environment. It says cesium tends to be absorbed in the soil, and denies water contaminated with that element reached the sea.

## **ASIAN BRIEFS**

### Mudslide in western China buries about 30

**BEIJING** (AP)—Flooding in western China, the worst in 50 years for some areas, triggered a landslide Wednesday that buried about 30 people, trapped hundreds in a highway tunnel and destroyed a high-profile memorial to a devastating 2008 earthquake. There was no immediate word on the chances of survival for the 30 or so people buried in the landslide in the city of Dujiangyan in Sichuan province, but rescue workers with search dogs rushed to the area, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

### **EU partially lifts ban on Philippine airlines**

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The European Union has partially lifted a ban on the entry of Philippine planes after aviation authorities in Manila addressed safety concerns, removing an obstacle to a robust flow of tourists and trade between Europe and the Southeast Asian nation, officials said Wednesday. EU Ambassador to Manila Guy Ledoux said that the decision, which takes effect on Friday, will allow flag carrier Philippine Airlines to resume flights to Europe. More safety improvements will have to be made for other Philippine carriers, like budget airline Cebu Pacific Air, to follow, he said. Philippine Airlines, which has recently acquired new longhaul Airbus aircraft, plans to resume flights to London, Paris, Rome and Amsterdam as early as September.

## Primitive, 5,000-year-old writing found



In this undated photo, markings etched on an unearthed piece of a stone ax are seen near Zhuangqiao grave relic, in Pinghu, in eastern China's Zhejiang province.

**BEIJING** (AP)—Archaeologists say they have discovered some of the world's oldest known primitive writing, dating back 5,000 years, in eastern China, and some of the markings etched on broken axes resemble a modern Chinese character.

The inscriptions on artifacts found south of Shanghai are about 1,400 years older than the oldest written Chinese language. Chinese scholars are divided over whether the markings are words or something simpler, but they say the finding will shed light on the origins of Chinese language and culture.

The oldest writing in the world is believed to be from Mesopotamia, dating back slightly more than 5.000 years. Chinese characters are believed to have been developed independently.

Inscriptions were found on more than 200 pieces dug out from the Neolithic-era Liangzhu relic site. The pieces are among thousands of fragments of ceramic, stone, jade, wood, ivory and bone excavated from the site between 2003 and 2006, lead archaeologist Xu Xinmin said.

The inscriptions have not been reviewed by experts outside the country, but a group of Chinese scholars on archaeology and ancient writing met last weekend in Zhejiang province to discuss the finding.

They agreed that the inscriptions are not enough to indicate a developed writing system, but Xu said they include evidence of words on two broken stone-ax pieces.

One of the pieces has six word-like shapes strung together to resemble a short sentence.

"They are different from the symbols we have seen in the past on artifacts," Xu said. "The shapes and the fact that they are in a sentence-like pattern indicate they are expressions of some meaning."

The six characters are arranged in a line, and three of them resemble the modern Chinese character for human beings. Each shape has two to five strokes.

"If five to six of them are strung together like a sentence, they are no longer symbols but words," said Cao Jinyan, a scholar on ancient writing at Hangzhou-based Zhejiang University. He said the markings should be considered glyphics.

He said there are also stand-

alone shapes with more strokes. "If you look at the composition, you will see they are more than symbols," Cao said.

But archaeologist Liu Zhao from Shanghai-based Fudan University warned that there was not sufficient material for any conclusion.

"I don't think they should be considered writing by the strictest definition," Liu said. "We do not have enough material to pin down the stage of those markings in the history of ancient writings.'

For now, the Chinese scholars have agreed to call it primitive writing, a vague term that suggests the Liangzhu markings are somewhere between symbols and words

The oldest known Chinese writing has been found on animal bones—known as oracle bones—dating to 3,600 years ago during the Shang dynasty.



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: CLOSE DATE: July 5, 2013 July 12, 2013 POSITION: Accountant

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in accounting strongly preferred. Minimum two years experience as a supervisory level employee qualification preferred but not required.

POSITION: HR Clerk OPEN DATE CLOSE DATE: July 12, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum 2 years experience in human resources field preferred. Must have a personable, friendly

personality. Ability to explain various laws and regulations to the employees in a friendly manner

July 5, 2013 July 12, 2013 OPEN DATE POSITION: IT Technician CLOSE DATE:

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in computer/network maintenance field required. Formal education/training in IT or Design related subjects highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: POSITION: Chinese GRO CLOSE DATE: July 12, 2013 SALARY: Minimum

Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum 2 years experience in a hotel front desk and/or concierge position strongly preferred. Proficiency in Chinese language strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile

OPEN DATE POSITION: Front Desk Clerk CLOSE DATE:

Qualifications:

OPEN DATE: July 5, 2013

CLOSE DATE: July 12, 2013

POSITION: Bell Hop

POSITION: Mechanic

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two 2 years experience in a hotel front desk and/or concierge position strongly preferred. Proficiency in Japanese, Korean, Chinese and/or Russian language strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile

OPEN DATE: POSITION: Server (Part-time) CLOSE DATE: July 12, 2013 SALARY:

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent. The position may require employ to receive certain food handler related health examination and clearance before hire and continue to receive such examination and clearance annually as a condition to their continued employment. Minimum 2 years in food service preferred. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a ready smiling individual highly preferred.

POSITION: Cook (Chinese) OPEN DATE: CLOSE DATE:

Wage/Negotiable

High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary continued employment

OPEN DATE: July 5, 2013 July 12, 2013 CLOSE DATE:

Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum of 2 years experience in mechanical related field required. Formal training in mechanical

repair/engineering highly preferred OPEN DATE: POSITION: Prim/Lifequard July 5, 2013

Wage/Negotiable

High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and

outgoing personality. OPEN DATE: POSITION: Activity/Water Park CLOSE DATE:

Wage/Negotiable

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in hotel outlet operations, and Water Park management/supervision highly

Applications are available at the Security Office next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applications must be completed at the time of submission. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. Skills testing may be required for some positions. Saipan World Resort is an equal Opportunity Employer. For more information, please contact Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 266/576.



### Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

State Health Information Technology (HIT) Meeting Monday, July 15, 2013 - 5:30 p.m. in CHCC's Conference Room 3

## Agenda

Stakeholders Roll Call

State HIT Coordinator

Chairman/Vice-Chair Review and adoption of June 10. 2013 Meeting minutes

Review and adoption of Agenda Discussion to phase out the Health Care Quality Network Association

(HCQNA) Bylaws Regular Business

Health Information Technology (HIT) Activities Update

B. State Medicaid HIT Plan and Activities

Provider Stakeholders Update

D. CHCC EHR Network

E. Health Information Exchange Update

New Business A. Direct Secure Messaging

**Next Meeting** Adjournment

## World

## Quebec crash missing presumed dead, making toll 50

LAC-MEGANTIC, Quebec (AP)—Everyone missing in the fiery crash of a runaway oil train in Ouebec is presumed dead, police told grieving families, bringing the death toll to 50 in Canada's worst railway catastrophe in almost 150 years.

Meanwhile, attention focused on the CEO of the railway's parent company, who faced jeers from local residents and blamed the train's engineer for improperly setting its breaks before the disaster.

Officials said Wednesday evening that 20 bodies had been found in this burned-out town, and 30 people were missing.

"We informed them of the potential loss of their loved ones," said Quebec police inspector Michel Forget, who came to an afternoon news briefing from a meeting with families of the dead and missing. "You have to understand that it's a very emotional moment."

Edward Burkhardt, the head of the train's U.S.-based parent company blamed the engineer for failing to set the brakes properly before the unmanned Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway train hurtled down a seven-mile (11-kilometer) incline, derailed and ignited in the center of Lac-Megantic early Saturday. All but one of its 73 cars was carrying oil, and at least five exploded.

The crash has raised questions about the rapidly growing use of rail to transport oil in North America, especially in the booming North Dakota oil fields and Alberta oil sands far



Workers comb through debris Tuesday, July 9, 2013, after a train derailed Saturday causing explosions of railway cars carrying crude oil in Lac-Megantic, Quebec,

from the sea.

The intensity of the explosions and fire made parts of the devastated town too hot and dangerous to enter and find bodies days after the disaster. Only one body had been formally identified, said Genevieve Guilbault of the coroner's office, and she described efforts to identify the other remains as "very long and arduous work."

Burkhardt, president and CEO of the railway's parent

company, Rail World Inc., faced jeers from residents and scorn from Quebec's premier as he made his first visit to the town since the disaster. He was expected to meet with residents and the mayor Thursday.

Burkhardt said the train's engineer had been suspended without pay and was under "police control."

Investigators also had spoken with Burkhardt during his visit, said a police official, Sgt. Benoit

Richard. He did not elaborate.

Until Wednesday, the railway company had defended its employees' actions, but that changed abruptly as Burkhardt singled out the engineer.

"We think he applied some hand brakes, but the question is, did he apply enough of them?" Burkhardt said. "He said he applied 11 hand brakes. We think that's not true. Initially we believed him, but now we don't."

Burkhardt did not name the

engineer, though the company had previously identified the employee as Tom Harding of Quebec. Harding has not spoken publicly since the crash.

"He's not in jail, but police have talked about prosecuting him," Burkhardt said. "I understand exactly why the police are considering criminal charges ... If that's the case, let the chips fall where they may."

Investigators are also looking at a fire on the same train just

hours before the disaster. A fire official has said the train's power was shut down as standard operating procedure, meaning the train's air brakes would have been disabled. In that case, hand brakes on individual train cars would have been needed.

The derailment is Canada's worst railway disaster since a train plunged into a Quebec river in 1864, killing 99.

Quebec police have said they were pursuing a wide-ranging criminal investigation, extending to the possibilities of criminal negligence and some sort of tampering with the train before the crash. The heart of the town's central business district is being treated as a crime scene and remained cordoned off by

At a news conference shortly before Burkhardt's arrival, Quebec Premier Pauline Marois faulted his company's response.

"We have realized there are serious gaps from the railway company from not having been there and not communicating with the public," Marois said. She depicted Burkhardt's attitude as "deplorable" and "unacceptable."

Burkhardt, who arrived in town with a police escort, said he had delayed his visit in order to deal with the crisis from his office in Chicago, saying he was better able to communicate from there with insurers and officials in different places.

"I understand the extreme anger," he said. "We owe an abject apology to the people in this town."

## Egypt escalates a crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood

(AP)—Egypt's military-backed government tightened a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood on Wednesday, ordering the arrest of its revered leader in a bid to choke off the group's campaign to reinstate President Mohammed Morsi one week after an army-led coup.

The Brotherhood denounced the warrants for the arrest of Mohammed Badie and nine other leading Islamists for inciting violence Monday that left dozens dead, saying "dictatorship is back" and vowing it will never work with the interim rulers.

Leaders of the Brotherhood are believed to be taking refuge somewhere near a continuing sit-in by its supporters at the Rabaah al-Adawiya Mosque in eastern Cairo, but it is not clear if Badie also is there.

The Brotherhood is outraged by the overthrow of Morsi, one of its own, and demands nothing less than his release from detention and his reinstatement as president.

## Egypt's Christians face backlash for Morsi ouster

CAIRO (AP)—With a mob of Muslim coincidence the attackers focused on Nasextremists on their tail, the Christian businessman and his nephew climbed up on the roof and ran for their lives, jumping from building to building in their southern Egyptian village. Finally they ran out of rooftops.

Forced back onto the street, they were overwhelmed by several dozen men. The attackers hacked them with axes and beat attacks on Christians in provinces that ly participate in politics and that the church them with clubs and tree limbs, killing are strongholds of hard-liners. In the Si- will not discourage them. Emile Naseem, 41. The nephew survived with wounds to his shoulders and head and recounted the chase to The Associ-

The mob's rampage through the village of Nagaa Hassan, burning dozens of Christian houses and stabbing to death three other Christians as well, came two days after the military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi from power. It was no

Security agencies have already jailed five leaders of the Brotherhood, including Badie's powerful deputy, Khairat

media outlets. The prosecutor general's office said Badie, another deputy,

el-Shaiter, and shut down its

eem and his family: He was the village's most prominent campaigner calling for Morsi's removal.

Some Christians are paying the price for their activism against Morsi and his Islamist allies in a backlash over his ouster last week.

nai Peninsula, where militant groups run rampant, militants gunned down a priest in a drive-by shooting as he walked in a public market.

Egypt's Christian minority, about 10 percent of the population, long shunned politics for fear of reprisals, relying on their church to make their case to those in power. That changed in the revolutionary fervor when autocrat Hosni Mubarak was toppled in 2011, as Christians started to demand a say in the country's direction.

But they took it to a new level during Morsi's year in office and the empowerment of his Islamist allies. The new Coptic Christian pope, Tawadros II, enthroned in November, openly criticized the president. Since then, there has been a string of He told Christians they were free to active-

"The Christians have emerged from under the robes of the clergy and will never go back," said Ezzat Ibrahim, an activist from Minya, a southern province with a large Christian community.

It was a risky gamble for a minority that has long felt vulnerable, with its most concentrated communities often living in the same rural areas where the most vehement and vocal Islamists hold sway.

> "This just signals that dictatorship is back," said Brotherhood spokesman Ahmed Aref. "We

are returning to what is worse than Mubarak's regime, which wouldn't dare to issue an arrest warrant of the general leader of the Muslim Brotherhood."

The Brotherhood's refusal to work with the new interim leaders underscored the difficulties they face in trying to stabilize Egypt and bridge the deep fissures that have opened in the country during Morsi's year in office.

Morsi has not been seen since the July 3 coup, but Foreign Ministry spokesman Badr Abdel-Atti gave the first official word on him in days, saying he is in a safe place and is being treated in a "very dignified manner." No charges have been leveled against him, Abdel-Atti said.

"For his own safety and for the safety of the country, it is better to keep him. ... Otherwise, consequences will be dire," he added.

Badie had appeared at the Rabaa al-Adawiya rally Friday, a day after an earlier arrest warrant against him was issued, also accusing him of inciting violence. On Wednesday night, he delivered a message to the crowd through a senior Brotherhood leader, an indication that he didn't want to make an appearance and endanger his security.

Mahmoud Ezzat, senior member Mohammed El-Beltagy and popular preacher Safwat Hegazy are suspected of instigating the clashes with security forces outside a Republican Guard building near the mosque that killed 54 people—most of them

Morsi supporters—in the worst bloodshed since he was ousted.

The Islamists have accused the troops of gunning down protesters, while the military blamed armed backers of Morsi for attempting to storm a military building.

The warrants highlight the armed forces' zero-tolerance policy toward the Brotherhood, which was banned under authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013 **23** 

## Off the Wall

In this photo made Wednesday, June 26, 2013 in Dorset, Minn., Bobby Tufts, the small town's 4-year-old mayor, poses for a photo before starting the Ronald McDonald fundraising walk.

## 19-foot python breaks into Aussie charity store

CAIRNS, Australia (AP)—Australian police were mystified by a chaotic crime scene including a hole in the ceiling and a smelly pool of vomit-like liquid—until they found the culprit was a 5.7-meter (19-foot) python.

The massive snake weighing in at 17 kilograms (37 pounds) was captured a day after a suspected burglary was reported at a charity store in Queensland in northeastern Australia.

"Its head was the size of a small dog," Police Sgt. Don Auld said Wednesday.

Before they found the python, investigators' working theory was that a human burglar with an appetite for destruction—and a serious illness—had gone on a rampage inside the St. Vincent de Paul store in the small town of Ingham.

"We thought a person had fallen through the ceiling because the roof panel was cut in half," Auld said. "When they've hit the floor, they've vomited and then staggered and fallen over. That's what we thought anyway."

Police now suspect the python entered the store through the roof, which was damaged in a cyclone two years ago.

The animal then plummeted through the ceiling, knocking over dishes, clothes and other items, before relieving itself on the floor. It somehow managed to hide from officials until staff spotted it lying alongside a wall the next day.

A local snake catcher was called in to capture the reptile, which has been relocated to nearby wetlands.

## **OFFBEAT BRIEFS**

## Michigan kids get down and dirty at annual Mud Day

WESTLAND, Mich. (AP)—Here's mud in your eye. And your hair, back and legs. It was a mother's nightmare and a kid's fantasy come true. Hundreds of children on Tuesday jumped into a 75-by-150-foot mud pit as part of the 26th annual Mud Day at a park in the Detroit suburb of Westland. Events included wheelbarrow races and a game of limbo. A panel of judges selected a king and queen, based on their creative uses of mud. Emily Cunningham of Riverview was chosen Queen of Mud. A crown was placed atop the 8-year-old's head, which was caked in mud and adorned with leaves and a stick. She says, "It's fun getting mud all over you." And after it was over, the Western Wayne Hazmat team was there to hose off the kids.

## NY school issues reading list riddled with errors

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—A Long Island school district has released a summer reading list riddled with spelling errors. F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" is misspelled as "The Great Gypsy." And author Emily Bronte is listed as Emily Bonte. According to Newsday and News 12 Long Island those are just a few of the more than 30 errors on the list provided by the Hempstead Public Schools. In a statement, a member of the New York State Department of Education's Board of Regents said the mistakes indicated that a stable administration was essential for children to get a good education. The statement said, "Hempstead has not had a stable administration for a long time and the kids are suffering."

## Minnesota town has 4-year-old boy as mayor

DORSET, Minn. (AP)—Supporters of the mayor in the tiny tourist town of Dorset can stuff the ballot box all they want as he seeks re-election. The mayor—a short guy—is known for his fondness of ice cream and fishing. And he's got the county's top law enforcement official in his pocket.

Say hello to Mayor Robert "Bobby" Tufts. He's 4 years old and not even in school yet.

Bobby was only 3 when he won election last year as mayor of Dorset (population 22 to 28, depending on whether the minister and his family are in town). Dorset, which bills itself as the Restaurant Capital of the World,

has no formal city government.

Every year the town draws a name during its Taste of Dorset Festival, and the winner gets to be mayor. Anyone can vote as many times as they like—for \$1 a vote—at any of the ballot boxes in stores around town. Bobby is running for a second term, and he gets to draw the winning name Aug. 4, so it's possible he could draw his own name.

Calls of "Mr. Mayor" greet Bobby as he strolls around Dorset, handing out his campaign card. One side shows Bobby, his dark hair slicked down, wearing his tan fishing vest over a suit jacket. The other side shows Bobby sitting in a porch swing with his girlfriend, Sophie.

"I would love to be your Mayor as much as I love Sophie," the card reads.

"He's been pretty good. Lotta PR for the town," said his mother, Emma Tufts, 34. "I think he's doing a fine job."

Bobby's job as mayor is to greet people as they come to Dorset, located among the pines and lakes of northern Minnesota about 150 miles northwest of Minneapolis. Resorts and tourism are the main industry, and restaurants ranging from Mexican to Italian to family style line about two blocks on either side of the highway that runs through the middle of town.

Bobby's major act as mayor so far has been to make ice cream the top of the food pyramid. He has many favorite flavors.

"Chocolate. And vanilla. Strawberry. Cotton candy kind. And rainbow sherbet," said the mayor.

On a recent steamy summer morning, Bobby skipped ahead as he led a group of about 20 children and adults on a walk on the Heartland Trail to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Red River Valley in Fargo, N.D. He wore his signature black fedora, adorned with fishing lures and a large button with his photo, and seemed endlessly energetic.



## Science & Technology

## Six apps to help autistic children learn

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

ith reports of autism among children continuing to rise at a meteoric rate throughout the United States, it's hardly surprising that scores of apps have been developed to help these kids cope, academically and socially.

Many of the apps, used primarily on iPads and other tablets, help children process information as well as social cues through games and instant audio rewards, such as clanging bells and applause. Others are designed to give parents and teachers tools to recognize behavioral patterns and schedule and coordinate care.

"I'm a big fan of these tablets," noted autistic activist Temple Grandin told the San Jose Mercury News. "Especially with nonverbal individuals, kids can type and the print appears right there on the screen, versus a computer where the keyboard and printed words are further apart. That's a huge advantage.'

Debbie Drennan, an assistive technology specialist with Parents Helping Parents in San Jose, Calif., demonstrated some of her favorite apps, for both autistic kids and their parents:

## **BITSBOARD**

Bitsboard helps kids with both literacy and emotional enrichment, using brightly colored

REGAL CINEMAS Bargain Shows () ★ Pass/Discount Restrictions Apply SAIPAN MEGAPLEX 7 Near Joeten Superstore in San Jose MP 1-800-FANDANGO 1484# **GROWN UPS 2 [CC] (PG-13)** Fri. - Sat.(1215 245 520) 755 1035 Sun. - Mon.(1215 245 520) 755 PACIFIC RIM [CC] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat.(425 PM) 1025 PM Sun. - Mon.(425 PM) PACIFIC RIM 3D [CC] (PG-13) DESPICABLE ME 2 [CC] (PG) Fri. - Sat.(1210 PM 500 PM) 955 PM Sun. - Mon.(1210 PM 500 PM) DESPICABLE ME 2 3D [CC] (PG) Fri. - Mon.(235 PM) 730 PM LONE RANGER [CC] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat.(1245 400) 715 1030 Sun. - Mon.(1245 PM 400 PM) 715 PM WHITE HOUSE DOWN [CC] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat.(105 405) 705 1005 Sun. - Mon.(105 PM 405 PM) 705 PM WORLD WAR Z [CC] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1255 355) 655 940 Sun. - Mon. (1255 PM 355 PM) 655 PM

MAN OF STEEL 3D [CC] (PG-13) Fri - Mon.(1230 PM)

flashcards and pop quizzes to teach them vocabulary as well as how to recognize visual cues in photos of people.

The app is "great for anyone on the autism spectrum, because it helps kids learn vocabulary using real objects in a consistent and repetitive way," Drennan said. "So they can touch that picture 100 times

For social cues, kids can call up "Emotions," then click on people whose faces show anger, disgust or boredom. By familiarizing children with these common expressions, the kids will be more comfortable when they see them in real life and perhaps not look away, as autistic kids often do when confused by social stimuli.

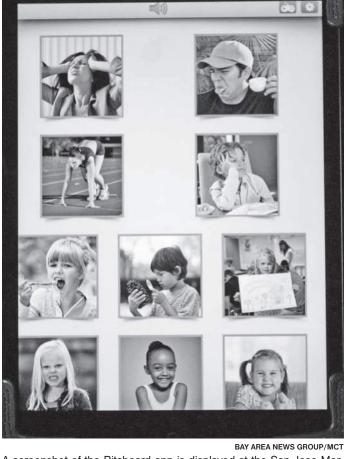
### **MODEL ME GOING PLACES**

This app uses "video modeling," in which a parent-created clip can virtually take an autistic child to a place before they actually go there. "Having someone on the (autism) spectrum do a new task or go to a new place, like the dentist office, can be very scary for the child," Drennan said. "This app uses video-modeling or what we call 'front-loading' to show them the place before they go and teach them how they should react once they get there."

On a visit to the "Hairdresser," slides show a young boy and his mom walking into a barbershop, while the audio and on-screen text say things like "I'm getting a haircut." One slide has the boy saying, "This feels good," a nice warm-up for the first real-time visit to get a haircut.

## **AURASMA**

Using an augmented-reality platform, Aurasma's image-recognition technology allows users to create their own augment-



A screenshot of the Bitsboard app is displayed at the San Jose Mercury News photo studio in San Jose, California, June 28, 2013. The app helps increase vocabulary in a visual way.

ed-reality interactions. Drennan says the software's perfect for helping older autistic children master increased independence from their parents.

She uses the office speaker phone for a demo: Point the iPad at the phone. Record a short video explaining how the device is used. Name the demo. Then snap a photo of the phone for the image-recognition software to recognize. Now for the fun part: As the child walks around the house, pointing the tablet briefly at an item, the corresponding video tutorial magically pops up.

## **AUTISM TRACKER LITE**

Drennan said one of the great-

est challenges for parents of an autistic child with flawed communication skills is knowing what's bugging the child when he or she's having a bad day. "They can't tell you why they're upset," she said, "but this app helps monitor their behavior and with its feedback can help identify what could be the cause of the stress they're feeling."

Using several tools in the app to describe the child's "Happiness"—"Not at all," "Just a little," or "Somewhat," for example—as well as his activity level and even the weather outside, the Tracker lets a parent chart a kid's behavior across a period of time. Often, Drennan said, a pattern will emerge to

indicate what might be causing a child to act out. For example, a child may show signs of stress at the beginning of each week, or after a change in diet, or even during certain types of weather.

### **VISUAL SCHEDULE PLANNER**

A fully customizable, cleanly designed audiovisual scheduler and calendar, this app helps the parents of autistic kids who need a clearly defined path through their days. "This app," Drennan said, "makes everyone's lives easier. It helps both you and the child, because you can add photos to calendars so scheduled activity that day is easy to understand. A photo of an ATM on Monday morning, for example, tells the child that that's when they'll go visit the bank."

The parent shows the child the day's events or what's coming later that week, so the ATM image might be followed by a lunch or shopping icon of some kid. This way, she said, "the kids can see clearly what's going to happen to them each day, removing a lot of the stress that comes from any sort of confusion."

## **CARE CIRCLES**

This app can be a godsend for those watching after autistic children. They create an account, then regularly update it by entering notes on medications, doctor-visit reports, even behavioral observations, sharing it all with their team of care providers.

"This way, everyone can share, in real-time, what's going on with the child," Drennan said. "So you know, for example, that he didn't have a snack at school or didn't go to the library that day like you thought he would. Everyone knows everything and there are no surprises, which decreases confusion and anxiety among everyone."

## **A BRIEF LOOK AT SIX TABLET APPS**

■ Bitsboard by Grasshopper Apps; free; iOS: Helps autistic kids learn vocabulary and teaches them to read social cues, such as facial expressions.

and nobody cares."

- Model Me Going Places by Model Me Kids; free; iOS: Offers slideshows that children
- can view before visiting a place they've never been before, such as a barbershop, and that shows them how to act once they get there.
- Aurasma by Aurasma; free; iOS and Android: Uses augmented-reality to turn an iPad or other tablet into a hands-on guide that allows a child to walk around a house or other environment, point the iPad at an object and instantly view a tutorial video about how to use it.
- Autism Tracker Lite by Track & Share Apps; free; iOS: Uses four screening tools to monitor a child's activity level, diet and mood, as well as the weather and other factors, then gives feedback that may indicate causes behind a child's behavior.
- Visual Schedule Planner by Good Karma Applications; \$14.99 (there's a free version, too); iOS and Android: Gives parents of autistic kids a cleverly designed scheduling tool to help set up a clearly defined path for the child throughout the day, week and month.
- Care Circles by SAP AG; free; iOS and Android: Lets parents and teachers collaborate on an action plan for a child, which they can update in real-time by entering notes on medications, changes in doses, doctor-visit reports, even behavioral observations.

**SOURCE:** San Jose Mercury News reporting

## o ads go wild, it may be a virus

By STEVE ALEXANDER STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)



QUESTION: Internet pop-up ads are out of control on my Windows 7

PC that uses Microsoft's Internet Explorer 10 Web browser.

They pop up on all websites. On some sites, all I have to do is get the cursor anywhere near a small advertisement, and it pops up to life size.

I have a free pop-up stopper from Panicware that used to be good, but now it doesn't stop most ads, especially the ones with video and sound.

Is there any way to stop these annoying ads before I throw the computer out the

window?—Tracy Anton, Miami **ANSWER:** I doubt that your pop-up blocker software is failing. More likely your computer has been infected by malicious

software that is prompting these advertisements to appear. Download the free Malware-

bytes Anti-Malware program at http://tinyurl.com/blqaum7. Click "Download Now" and you'll be taken to a download page; ignore the Web page and find, at the bottom of your screen, a rectangular download box that says, in part, "Do you want to run or save mbam-setup-1.75.0.1300.exe?" Click on "run." When the installation is complete, uncheck the box next to "Enable free trial," click "Finish," let the program update,

warebytes starts, use its default choose "Control Panel," click sible solutions at http://tinyurl. setting "run quick scan" and "Programs and Features" and click "Scan." You'll be given a list of questionable programs on your PC; choose to delete them. Periodically run this program from its desktop icon to keep your PC clean.

Now take some preventive action by either turning on the pop-up blocker that is built in to Internet Explorer 10 or downloading a new pop-up blocker program. I suggest that you choose one option or the other, because you gain nothing by having two pop-up blockers simultaneously consuming PC processing power. For the same reason, I suggest you uninstall your original Panicware pro-

then click "OK." When Malgram. To do this, click "Start," follow the directions.

> To turn on Internet Explorer 10's own pop-up blocker, click on the "Tools" heading, and choose "Internet Options". Then click on the "Privacy" tab and check the box in front of "Turn on Pop-up Blocker." To download another free pop-up blocker, see http://tinyurl.com/lteapve.

> Q: Ever since I installed Windows 7 Pro, the "Devices and Printers" function in Control Panel doesn't work because it never finishes loading. That means I can't control any printer linked to my PC. What should I do?—Robert Simpson, Faribault, Minn.

A: Microsoft suggests poscom/nb22cuw. They include restarting your computer with only the minimum number of programs running (to eliminate potential software conflicts) and updating the printer software drivers for each of the printers you use. You should skip suggestion 5, to run an online virus scan, and instead run Malwarebytes software described above.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@ gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

## Life & Style

## Director says Jackson's condition frightened him

director of Michael Jackson's ill-fated comeback concerts told a jury on Wednesday that he was frightened when Jackson was shivering and seemed lost at one of his final rehearsals for the "This Is It" shows.

The rehearsal occurred six days before Jackson died in June 2009, Kenny Ortega testified during a negligence lawsuit filed by Jackson's mother against AEG Live LLC, the promoter of the concerts.

"I saw a Michael that frightened me," Ortega said, calling Jackson's appearance "very, very troubling.'

Jackson wasn't coherent when he arrived that day but improved somewhat as the night went on, Ortega said. The singer didn't rehearse that recalled seeing him after numerous missed rehearsals.

Court proceedings were briefly recessed when Ortega broke down while reading an email he sent to the CEO of AEG Live LLC hours after the rehearsal in which he described Jackson as a "lost boy." The singer's mother Katherine Jackson also appeared to cry during the proceedings.

Ortega said he was trying to alert AEG Live officials about Jackson's condition and trusted them to get the singer appropriate care.

Instead, Ortega said he was confronted by Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, during a tense meeting the following day. Ortega said Murray assured him and AEG Live CEO

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The night—the first time the director Randy Phillips that Jackson was capable of rehearsing.

Ortega also recalled that Phillips didn't speak up during the meeting, which he left after about 15 minutes.

The director said on crossexamination that he believed Phillips and another top executive, Paul Gongaware, cared for Jackson. "I felt they loved him," Ortega said, adding that he doesn't think that sentiment has changed since they were sued by Katherine Jackson.

Jackson's mother is suing AEG Live, claiming the company missed warning signs about her son's health and failed to properly investigate the doctor later convicted of involuntary manslaughter after giving the singer an overdose of the anesthetic propofol.

AEG denies it hired Murray. The company also says there was no way it could have known the doctor was giving Jackson propofol as a sleep aid.

Ortega also said Jackson appeared to be under the influence of a substance on at least four occasions when he did attend rehearsals. Jackson's state was "fairly obvious" to others involved in the production, he said.

He told jurors that he sent the email describing Jackson's poor condition during the rehearsal to Phillips to suggest the singer needed professional help. He also said that based on Jackson's condition, he didn't believe the "This Is It" shows could go forward, but he hoped there would be a turnaround.

Travis was admitted to Bay-

lor Medical Center McKin-

nev near his home in Tioga,

about 60 miles north of Dallas,

through the emergency room on

Sunday. The singer underwent

a procedure to have a pump in-

serted by catheter that helps in-

crease blood flow before being

transferred to The Heart Hospi-

heart failure.

tal Baylor Plano.

## Transgender woman seeks rules of engagement on dating scene By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 30-year-old transgender woman who has just started her journey. Feeling more comfortable in my skin, I have been going to some local hangouts with some friends from work and meeting straight men. My question is, when is it appropriate to disclose that I am a preoperative trans woman?



I have tried online dating on trans-friendly websites, as well as visited the local transgender

ing for more than that. I would love your advice on the matter.

STARTING MY JOURNEY

**DEAR STARTING:** For your safety, it is important that you disclose your status early, before there is any sex involved. If you don't, the straight man could react violently and possibly put you in danger.

bar, but those men tend only to be looking for sex, and I am look-

At this point, it would be a good idea to contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) because it can put you in touch with resources to help you through your journey. The largest increase in new individuals reaching out to PFLAG is now among people with "trans" issues—and this includes both trans individuals and their family members.

It is critically important to seek out a culturally competent therapist to help you with specific issues. To find referrals and a local chapter, visit pflag.org.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband is in Afghanistan for a year. When he returns, I want to ask him to get tested for STDs before we have sex. I do not have any specific reason to think he would be having sex with someone while deployed, but let's face it. He's a man, and a year is a long time to abstain when there are females present. I have seen text messages from his buddies that read, "What happens on deployment stays on deployment," regarding them cheating on their spouses.

How do I approach the subject in the most effective way? I know that when I do, he will be mad, but it's not the first time that STDs have been a problem in our relationship. Help!

## THINKING OF MY HEALTH

DEAR THINKING OF YOUR HEALTH: One would think that a man who loves his wife would want to be absolutely POS-ITIVE that he wouldn't give her a sexually transmitted infection. However, because your husband has given you one before, it is perfectly logical that you tell him it is the reason you want him to be tested before resuming your marital relationship.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a single 32-year-old who lives across the country from my family. I have two sets of grandparents who both send me birthday and holiday cards containing checks.

The problem is, I earn close to six figures, which is far more than my grandparents' income in retirement, and I have only myself to support. I typically shred their checks when I

Should I continue to do this, or should I tell them that as much as I appreciate the sentiment, a simple card would be fine?

## SECRETLY SHREDDING IN SEATTLE

DEAR S.S. IN S.: When a check isn't cashed, it is obvious to the check writer, and it can cause problems in balancing the person's checkbook. I think your solution to tell them you no longer need the checks is a good one.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

## Singer Randy Travis in surgery after stroke

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— Country music star Randy Travis suffered a stroke while at a Texas hospital and was in surgery late Wednesday, the singer's publicist said.

Publicist Kirt Webster said Wednesday night that the 54-year-old Travis suffered the stroke while he was being treated for congestive heart failure because of a viral illness. It was not clear what kind of stroke Travis suffered.

Webster said Travis was undergoing surgery to relieve pressure on his brain. He remained in critical condition.

## Appendicitishit Elton John 'grateful to be alive'

LONDON (AP)—Elton John says he is grateful to be alive after learning he had been playing European tour dates while suffering from undiagnosed appendicitis.

The 66-year-old musician is quoted in The Sun newspaper Wednesday as saying he had struggled through the shows in pain, thinking he had food poisoning.

He later learned "I was a ticking time bomb. I guess I could have died at any time."

He added: "I feel so lucky and grateful to be alive."

On Tuesday John canceled a show in London's Hyde Park and other summer dates while he is treated for an inflamed appendix and surrounding ab-

He is due to have surgery in the next few weeks after treatment with antibiotics.

John's new album, "The Diving Board," is due out in September.

"His family and friends here with him at the hospital request your prayers and support," Webster said in a news release.

Earlier Wednesday, doctors said that Travis was showing

signs of improvement but remained in critical condition with congestive heart failure because of a viral illness.

Drs. William Gray and Michael Mack of the Baylor Health Care System in Tex-

as described Travis' condition and hospitalization in a video statement.

"His condition has stabilized,



Travis

and he has shown signs of improvement," Mack said in the video. "On behalf of Mr. Travis" family, friends and associates, we would like to express our extreme gratitude for the over-

> whelming affection and support that Mr. Travis has received."

> The Grammy Award-winning singer was in good health until three weeks before he was hospitalized, when he contracted a viral upper

weakened heart muscle that

respiratory infection, Gray said. The viral illness led to a

The North Carolina-born Travis is a traditional country purist who is a pivotal figure in the genre best known for his hits "Forever and Ever, Amen" and "Three Wooden Crosses." His Warner Bros. debut album "Storms of Life" sold 3 million copies and helped return coun-

eventually worsened into try music to its roots.

## 'The Lion King' on the road hits \$1 billion

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It's a mainstay on Broadway and now "The Lion King" has proved it's a king on the road, too.

Disney Theatrical Productions said Wednesday that the show's total touring box office gross in North America has reached \$1 billion. Producers estimate that more than 15 million theatergoers in over 70 cities across North America have seen the show since 2002.

Says Jack Eldon, a vice president at Disney Theatrical Productions: "We remain overwhelmed by the enduring response to the show and are enormously thankful to our patrons—new and returning-for their continued enthusiasm and support."

It reached its milestone quickly. Three national tours of "The Phantom of the Opera" have grossed over \$1.5 billion in combined box office sales but the first kicked off in 1989.

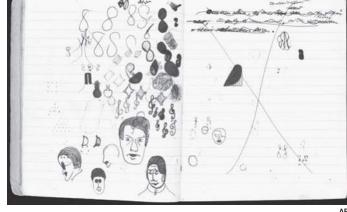
## Samuel Beckett manuscript sells for \$1.4 million

LONDON (AP)—Sotheby's says the manuscript of Irish writer Samuel Beckett's first novel has sold at auction for almost 1 million pounds (\$1.5 million).

Britain's University of Reading bought "Murphy," written in 1935-36, for 962,500 pounds (\$1.4 million) at Wednesday's sale.

The six exercise books contain the heavily reworked text of the novel as well as notes, doodles and sketches of figures including James Joyce and Charlie Chaplin.

Its many revisions give insights into Beckett's creative process. There are eight rejected versions of the novel's opening line-"The sun shone, having no alter-



An undated photo made available by Sotheby's showing part of a set of Samuel Beckett jotters.

native, on the nothing new."

The university's vice chancellor, David Bell, said acquiring the manuscript "will pro-

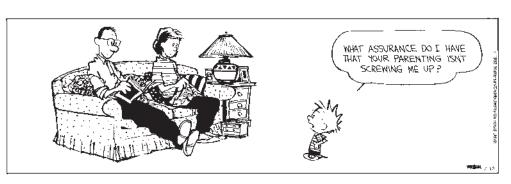
vide unparalleled opportunities to learn more about one of the greatest writers in living memory, if not all time."

## **Pastimes**

## Calvin and Hobbes

## By Bill Waterson Garfield®

### By Jim Davis



designs

40 Piquant

occu-

pant

dish

title

material

48 Nabokov

heroine

46 Petri







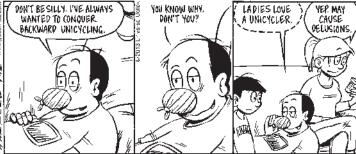
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy











## **CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

AC	ROSS	41	Showbiz	2	Greet	21	Tummy
1	Degrade		job		the bad		muscles
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	one	45	Mumbai		base		toe
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	ing		Coq —"	8	"CSI"		port
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20	Capri or	56	Hearty		"Stop!"		of movie
1	Wight			10	Tureen		lore
21	"Eureka!"	57	Figure of		accessory	34	Intimidate
23	Slithery		speech	11	Preface	36	Snub
	swimmer			17	Girl in	38	Mafia
24	Clan	DC	NWO		"Peanuts"		bigwigs

1 Punctur-19 Make 39 Dizzying emblem 25 Melville's ing tool obscure Billy Solution time: 25 mins. 27 Beelze-42 Huge bub 45 Pedestal 29 Nicole Polizzi's nickname 31 Vinegary 35 Language of \$ri Lanka 37 Commo-**50** End tion

38 Deceive Yesterday's answer 7-12 51 Before 19 18 22 25 28 29 32 | 33 | 34 35 36 39 43 48 50 51 49 52 54

or answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kim**berly Perry, 30; Topher Grace, 35; Michelle Rodriguez, 35; Bill Cosby, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take a different approach to the way you handle friends, relatives or neighbors. Appreciation, along with well-thought-out suggestions, will help you convince others to do things your way. Communication will be your strength, but sticking to an agenda will not be that easy. Inconsistency must be avoided. Harness your skills and put them to the test. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 20, 31, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Apply yourself and you can make improvements to your life personally and professionally. A change will lift your spirits and encourage others to help you reach your goals. Taking the first step will make the difference. Love is highlighted.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Organization and preparation will help you make the most of your day. Flirting with ideas that lead to enjoyment, trying something new or visiting an unfamiliar destination will lead to knowledge, new options and friendships. Be receptive and inviting.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An emotional issue will surface and should be dealt with openly and immediately. Letting things fester will not be in your best interest. Love is on the rise, and you don't want to mess up a romantic moment due to a mishap.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore any possibility that allows you to use your imagination, creativity and experience. Travel or getting involved in community events or activities that have a unique cultural flavor will broaden your perspective, options and opinions.

sis on money, investments, legalities and

health issues. Protect what you have and make sure you read the fine print of any agreement or document that needs your signature. A change may be wanted but it will also be costly. •••

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Volunteer your services or take a serious approach to making a difference. Vocalize your position and your concerns and you will get a response. Don't settle for less when you can get

so much more. Reconnect with people who share your beliefs. OOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't step back when you should be protecting your position. Make suggestions and stand up to whatever competition you face. A high-spirited approach will show a unique and unexpected side of you that will leave an impression.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Being a participant will enable you to show your strengths. Getting involved in a cause or making your point heard will enhance your chance to take a lead position. Making a geo-

graphical move or even just expanding your interests will pay off. 2000 SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional problems will set in if you are

judgmental or if you aren't upfront about your feelings. Love is in the stars, but so is conflict. Caution must be taken if you are harboring

**EUGENIA** LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put more empha-

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get your game plan in order. A partnership will weigh heavy in a decision you must make regarding your position or status. Speak up and move forward. OOOOO

> AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Discipline will be required. Focus on personal relationships and property investments. A new deal is likely to improve your lifestyle and expand the possibility of achieving your dreams, hopes and wishes for the future. Love is in the stars. OOO

feelings of uncertainty or a change of heart.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Con-

sider your beliefs and where you see

yourself in five years. Strategize and

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional blackmail or deception may leave you in an awkward position. Don't jeopardize what you've worked so hard to obtain. Step back, be reasonable and focus on making love, not war. Expand your options personally and financially.

Birthday Baby: You are energetic and imaginative. You are dedicated and eccentric.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.lv/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6	4	7			
		2				8		
	6						1	
6			7		3			2
1								7
9			1		5			4
	4						2	
		5				3		
			8	9	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer										
8	4	2	7	5	6	3	1	9		
6	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	7		
1	7	5	3	4	9	6	8	2		
7	1	6	9	3	2	5	4	8		
5	2	8	6	1	4	9	7	3		
4	9	3	5	8	7	2	6	1		
9	5	4	1	7	3	8	2	6		
2	6	1	4	9	8	7	3	5		
3	8	7	2	6	5	1	9	4		

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

### By DAVID Wonderword

OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-disconally even backward. Find them and CIRCLE TRUER. tally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE LETTERS ONLY DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The lettore small the Wardsmard. BLINDFOLDS

GTTIGHTENBLUFFT LAIRETAMSLOOFHN I A M E I K C O L B L M G 🛈 E ALOEDÇFIDDAI(()) NV T P E G S L K O H S S N W E E E R A A A S N S K T (K) D R M R HTIPRKAERTOEARP TSSPENYASESLPAR NUYYARLEFODICGO IJEDOATLLLNAUUC PDNSIEICPAYEHNE WANTTGOETASIPSD BERSHVEASSRTNOU SAATELLEVARTIGR M T S R S U R P R I S E Y C E

6 2013 Universal Lollak - www.wonderword.com - Join us on Facebook Adjust, Bandana, Block, Bluff, Close, Cloth, Cover, Donkey, Elastic, Flaps, Flights, Flying, Fold, Fools, Games, Garment, Goal, Guess, Knot, Learn, Martial Arts, Mask, Material, Mind, Open, Paper, Party, Pinata, Pin the Tail, Prevent, Procedure, Sensory, Shade, Sight, Skill, Sleep, Snug, Surprise, Taste Test, Tied, Tighten, Travel, Tricks, Trip, Wear, Wrap Yesterday's Answer: Deepwater

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, call toll-free, 1-800-642-

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

(2) Fisherman, (2) Sales Representative. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O.Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950.

### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

### **Job Vacancy Announcement**

Part time General Maintenance (1) \$5.55/hr with 7 to 10 years

work experience

**Michael Villagomez** Email mkvillagomez@yahoo.com

## Newly Renovated HOUSE FOR RENT

(Tottottville House No. 9, available August 1st) 4-BR Concrete, 2Bath, Carport, Semi-furnished A/C, All New-Fridge, Gas stove w/Gas tank Water Heater, 2-1000 gal water tank, Lavish ceramic tiles. Fresh interior/exterior paint and more. Must see to appreciate. Serious inquiries only. Call 285-3663, email seewes@gmail.com after July 20, 2013.

Overdrive

## (1) Sales Manager

Minimum 4 years experience with Bachelor's Degree.

Interested applicants please oring resume & police clearance to Innovation Inc., San Antonio, P.O.Box 504206, or call 235-5547

### **CAPITOL HILL APTS**

1 BR; 1 BTH and 2 BR; 1 BTH Fully Furnished with AC, Linens, Pots, Pan, etc. Very private. CALL 322-2424

## **Century Tours, Inc.**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: (1) Training Coordinator Salary: \$5.55 - \$6.55 per hour Job Qualification: Bachelor's Degree in education or related field with experience in instruction or training.

Application: Applications and job description may be obtained from the Front Office of Century Tours Inc., located at the Kanoa Resort Saipan, Beach Road. Susune Saipan. Deadline for submission of completed applications is July 16, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

**AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY!** 

2B/R Apartment \$200/month

2 Storey House w/ 1.5 bath & 2 bedrooms \$300/month

Upper Garapan, Saipan Call 287-2644 or 233-2644

### **APARTMENT FOR RENT**

• 3 Bedroom with 2 Bathrooms Wooden flooring, 24hr Hot Water, Fully furnished, windy place. 2nd Floor \$550.00

Located in Chalan Kanoa next to the beach - Ocean view. Call 235-3004 or Text 989-7508

### **LOOKING FOR A HOUSE TO RENT WITH**

Bedrooms, 2 to 3 Toilet/bath, water tank, water heater, wide parking space for 5 vehicles, pet allowed (1 indoor dog), safe place. We can rent up to \$1,200 per month.

Please email to natashaphil2002@yahoo.com or call/txt 286-9807.

### Job Vacancy Announcement iFashion Salon & **General Merchandise**

### (3) Beautician

-minimum of 2 years experience Interested applicants may call 233-6060

### FOR SALE OR RENT

3 STOREY BUILDING 1ST FLOOR - BIG OFFICE SPACE 2ND FLOOR - APT UNITS: TWO (2 BEDROOMS, 1BATHROOM) One (4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms 3rd Floor – APT UNIT: One (1 bedroom, 1 bathroom)

CALL MARIA AT 483-3970

## HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL

P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX (670) 237-2529

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: (1) Clerk, Front Desk Salary:

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## Trades, new contracts become official around NBA



NBA team would like Dwight Howard.

other suitors announced their backup plans—while one lost out on another big target.

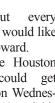
Bynum agreed to sign with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

the best team in Los Angeles.

"We're loaded at every position," said Matt Barnes, who resigned with the Clippers. "Who doesn't want to play with Chris? He's arguably the best point guard in the game. It just shows this organization has come a long way. They're making the right moves."

It's hard to see anything official as of Wednesday night.

That was the first day transac-



Just about every

Only the Houston Rockets could get him, and on Wednesday a couple of his

Paul Millsap is headed to Atlanta. The Golden State Warriors acquired Andre Iguodala. But the Dallas Mavericks missed out on another center when Andrew

The Los Angeles Clippers never had to look beyond their top target, with Chris Paul committing to stay on the first day of free agency. They also added Darren Collison, Jared Dudley and J.J. Redick to a team that won the Pacific Division last season, surpassing the Lakers as

changing in Los Angeles next season after Howard passed on re-signing with the Lakers and instead opted for the Rockets in a deal that still hadn't become

tions could be completed and contacts signed following the completion of the NBA's moratorium period. The Rockets couldn't wait to talk about their All-Star center, getting fined \$150,000 by the league on Tuesday for premature comments about Howard on TV and in social media.

The rest of the league waited until rules allowed Wednesday.

The Clippers held a press conference for Paul, the three new players and the re-signed Barnes



Los Angeles Clippers head coach Doc Rivers stands in front of players, from left, Matt Barnes, Darren Collison, Jared Dudley, Ryan Hollins, Chris Paul and J.J. Redick as the Clippers announce updates and additions to their NBA basketball team roster at their headquarters in Los Angeles Wednesday, July 10, 2013.

## Wade's ex-wife sues over endorsement deals

CHICAGO (AP)—A legal battle that NBA star Dwyane Wade and his ex-wife have been fighting for years has a new chapter.

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that Siohvaughn Funches-Wade filed a lawsuit Tuesday alleging that Wade is violating the terms of a 2008 agreement that requires his endorsement deals be fully deposited into a joint account they both control.

According to the paper, the

lawsuit claims a total of \$2 miland Ryan Hollins on what Paul called "one of the biggest days

in franchise history."

While they were celebrating, Bynum was meeting with Dallas, another team that wanted Howard. But he went with a previous two-year offer from the Cavs, according to a person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet announced.

lion in damages from Wade. four companies involved in endorsement deals, a financial adviser and an attorney.

James Pritikin, Wade's attorney, said the lawsuit was without merit and that he expected it to be thrown out of court. He also said that the lawsuit "mischaracterizes" the terms of the agreement involving the joint account but declined to comment further.

The lawsuit comes just weeks after Wade's Miami

Bynum was part of the fourteam trade that sent Howard from Orlando to Los Angeles last summer, but never played a game for Philadelphia because of knee problems.

Charlotte got bigger by adding Utah center Al Jefferson, while his former Jazz teammate Millsap is also bound for the Southeast Division with the Hawks.

Atlanta missed out on How-

Heat won the NBA championship series against the San Antonio Spurs -the kind of event that often results in more endorsement opportunities for professional athletes.

It also follows a messy divorce and custody battle that played out in Chicago courtrooms between Wade, a Chicago-area native, and his ex-wife for about five years. In 2010, Wade was granted a divorce and the next year he was awarded sole custody of

ard, and forward Josh Smith left for a \$54 million, four-year deal with Detroit, but the Hawks bounced back by giving Millsap a two-year, \$19 million contract.

"We've been following Paul for a year, hoping for the opportunity to have him on our team," general manager Danny Ferry said. "His competitiveness, night in and night out, is unique. He's not like most players."

the couple's two sons.

Last year, Funches-Wade was arrested on misdemeanor charges of attempted child abduction, unlawful visitation interference and obstruction of a peace officer after an incident related to visitation. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office said Wednesday that all the charges except obstruction of a peace officer have been dismissed. The office said Funches-Wade is scheduled to appear in court on that charge in September.

The Jazz also got involved in the deal that landed Iguodala with the Warriors, who gave him a four-year, \$48 million deal last week. Golden State cleared more than \$24 million by sending Richard Jefferson, Andris Biedrins and Brandon Rush to the Jazz along with four draft picks and cash. Denver received guard Randy Foye from the Jazz.

Chris Andersen signed a \$1.7 million, one-year deal to stay with the Miami Heat, who will have to hold off some stronger challengers next season in the Eastern Conference. Indiana re-signed power forward David West and added C.J. Watson as a backup point guard, while the Chicago Bulls improved their outside shooting by signing Mike Dunleavy.

The New York Knicks hope they did, too, with the acquisition of Andrea Bargnani. However, the former No. 1 overall pick from Italy struggled during an injury-plagued 2012-13 season for the Toronto Raptors, who shipped him to New York for Steve Novak, Quentin Richardson, Marcus Camby and three future draft picks.

The NBA's other big deal of the offseason, the trade sending Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce from Boston to Brooklyn, will be completed Friday. The Nets could pay more than \$70 million in taxes in the first season of the NBA's harsher penalties for teams who exceed the limit.

## Hernandez's troubles bring scrutiny on Meyer

By RALPH D. RUSSO



come Urban Meyer's problem.

A murder charge against Hernandez, who played for Meyer at Florida from 2007-09, has led to greater scrutiny of Meyer's time as Gators head coach—a six-year run highlighted by two national championships and Tim Tebow's Heisman Trophy, but also marked by about two dozen players making the police blotter.

Hernandez was not one of the 25 players who accounted for 31 arrests during Meyer's tenure, but he had issues—"relatively speaking ... very minor stuff'-

Meyer said in a recent interview with *The Columbus Dispatch*.

Those issues included Herinvolvement in a bar fight that police records say left a man injured (no charges were filed); and being questioned as a witness in a shooting.

Meyer, who turned 49 Wednesday, answered critics of his oversight while at the school, saying in a recent statement to the *Dispatch* and the *Gainesville* Sun: "Relating or blaming these serious charges to the University of Florida, myself or our staff is wrong and irresponsible."

Yet when Meyer was there, he often spoke out about the virtues of his players.

"I want to make sure that our

players, this team goes down as end of the day you want a bunch one of the great teams in Florida football history," he said the the right thing. And it's not easy Aaron Hernandez's nandez's one-game suspension morning after Tebow and the to get that. It's not easy. In 20troubles have be- for failing a marijuana test; Gators beat Oklahoma 24-14 in something years of coaching, on south Florida to win the 2008 national title. "It's one of the greatest groups of young people I've ever been around, and I'm starting to get a little bit of experience behind me now, 20-something years, and that's saying a lot because I've been around some great young guys."

Later in the news conference, Meyer was asked what he had learned about running a program like Florida after stops at Bowling Green and Utah.

"It still comes down to getting guys to go as hard as they can, it all comes down to getting guys to graduate, to live right. At the

of players that are committed to one hand I can hold the amount of teams that I've been around the kids that do it the right way. I'm not talking about a few, I'm talking about the core of your team if you do it the right way, and we've got it here at Florida."

Meyer set the bar high for his players and his program. When it failed to meet those standards, he became an easy target for his critics—of which there are now many.

"When a coach starts talking about how strong he is on discipline, and then things go wrong, people get all over him—when actually he's no different from

anybody else," said former Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, who went 0-5 against Meyer's Gators and considers his old rival a friend.

Meyer certainly didn't pick up many fans at rival schools during his time at Florida. His Gators feasted on most of the Southeastern Conference and dominated the school's fiercest rivals. Against Georgia, Tennessee and Florida State, Meyer went 16-2 and showed no mercy in doing so.

When Meyer resigned for a second time as Gators coachbut this time for good—after an 8-5 2010 season to address health issues and spend more time with his family, many Florida fans felt abandoned and betrayed by him.

He left Gainesville with the program trending down, went to work for ESPN during his season away from coaching, and was introduced as coach of the Buckeyes in his home state of Ohio less than a year after he quit at Florida.

"That comes with the territory," Bowden told the AP in a phone interview Tuesday. "How many times can you think of a successful coach leaving a school and that school not feeling some animosity toward him?"

The Hernandez case has provided an opportunity to re-visit Meyer's record, and also to note that despite his proclamations, not all was right with the Gators. A case can be made that Meyer was a) lax when it came to discipline, and, b) willing to take on players of questionable character.

"Every coach has some skeletons in his closet somewhere." Bowden said.

And right now, Meyer's is being inspected.



**DETROIT** (AP)—Prince Fielder hom-

ered and Rick Porcello pitched six solid innings as the Detroit Tigers bounced back Wednesday night with an 8-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Detroit allowed 23 hits in an 11-4 loss to the White Sox on Tuesday, but it was the Tigers who did the slugging early on in this game. Fielder lined a tworun shot to right field in the first inning for his 16th homer.

Conor Gillaspie and Gordon Beckham homered for Chicago.

Porcello (6-6) allowed three runs and seven hits. Joaquin Benoit pitched the ninth for his eighth save in eight chances.

Dylan Axelrod (3-6) allowed seven runs and 11 hits in 5 2-3 innings.

## Orioles 6, Rangers 1

In Baltimore, Wei-Yin Chen returned from the disabled list to pitch seven innings of three-hit ball, and the Baltimore Orioles got a three-run homer from Nolan Reimold in a victory over Texas.

Manny Machado had three hits and an RBI for the Orioles, who won for only the third time in nine games.

Chen (4-3) had not pitched since May 12 because of a strained right oblique. The left-hander allowed one run, walked three and struck out four.

## Yankees 8, Royals 1

In New York, Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer and Lyle Overbay added a grand slam to

## Fielder, Tigers beat White Sox, 8-5

help the New York Yankees beat Kansas City.

Ivan Nova (4-2) delivered another impressive pitching performance and the Yankees, held to one run each of the previous three days, stopped a threegame slide. They watched two more players get banged up, though, when slumping Travis Hafner and speedy Brett Gardner left with injuries.

### Blue Jays 5, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Munenori Kawasaki hit a two-run single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning as the Toronto Blue Jays beat Cleveland.

Kawasaki, who broke an 0-for-18 slump, broke a 2-all tie with his two-out hit. A third run scored when center fielder Michael Bourn misplayed the ball for an error.

## Rays 4, Twins 3, 13 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Ben Zobrist hit an RBI single with two outs in the 13th inning as Tampa Bay beat Minnesota to win its season-best seventh straight game.

Zobrist lined a 1-2 pitch from Ryan Pressly (2-1) into the gap in right-center field, ending a 4-hour, 47-minute game that featured 35 strikeouts — 19 for Rays pitchers.

### Red Sox 11, Mariners 4

homer and Lyle In Seattle, David Ortiz doubled a grand slam to in his first at-bat to become base-

ball's career leader in hits as a designated hitter and hit a tworun homer an inning later, leading Boston Red Sox to victory over Seattle.

Ortiz entered the night tied with Harold Baines for the most hits as a DH and it took just one at-bat to claim the record. Ortiz doubled to left-center field to lead off the second inning and was acknowledged by a standing ovation from the mix of Red Sox and Mariners fans.

### Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Hanley Ramirez and A.J. Ellis hit consecutive homers in the 14th inning off Josh Collmenter, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-5 on Wednesday night to complete a three-game sweep.

Ellis tied the game with a two-out, run-scoring single in the ninth inning off Heath Bell and Ramirez hit the first pitch of the 14th off Collmenter (4-2) just over the wall in right field. Five pitches later, Ellis made it 7-5 with his fourth homer.

## Mets 7, Giants 2

In San Francisco, former Giants prospect Zack Wheeler pitched seven sharp innings and Marlon Byrd homered again as the New York Mets completed their first sweep in San Francisco since 1994.

Daniel Murphy and John Buck

each had two hits and drove in two runs as the Mets won their fourth in a row, including three straight over the slumping World Series champions. The Giants have lost 16 of 19.

## Nationals 5, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Gio Gonzalez tossed seven sharp innings and the Nationals hit a pair of consecutive homers off Cliff Lee as Washington beat the Philadelphia Phillies.

Anthony Rendon and Wilson Ramos hit back-to-back shots off Lee to start the fifth and Ryan Zimmerman and Jayson Werth did it to open the sixth.

Gonzalez (7-3) gave up one run and six hits, striking out five to win his fourth straight start. The lefty has eight quality starts in a row.

## Marlins 6, Braves 2

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run double to end a 10-game RBI drought, and the Miami Marlins broke a five-game losing streak by beating Atlanta 6-2.

Stanton had been in a 3-for-26 slump before he put the Marlins ahead in their four-run first inning against Paul Maholm (9-8). Placido Polanco added three hits and three RBIs.

Jacob Turner (3-1) allowed four hits and two runs in seven innings. Steve Cishek allowed two singles in the ninth to complete a six-hitter.

## Reds 6, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Mike Leake scattered four hits over 8 1-3 innings and Brandon Phillips had three RBI, lifting the Cincinnati Reds over the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Reds put the leadoff runner on base in each of the first seven innings and snapped a three-game losing streak.

Leake (8-4) bounced back from a rare rough start in his last outing and seemed to get stronger as the game progressed. He allowed four walks while striking out two.

### **Rockies 5, Padres 4**

In San Diego, Rockies starter Jorge De La Rosa took a one-hit shutout into the sixth inning and Colorado held on to give the left-hander his sixth straight win against the San Diego Padres.

De La Rosa lifted his record at Petco Park to 3-0 with a 1.88 ERA. His winning streak against San Diego spans eight starts.

The Rockies were leading 4-0 in the sixth when Carlos Quentin hit his 11th home run, a two-run shot to straightaway center field, scoring Chase Headley, who had walked. That was all for De La Rosa (9-5), who allowed two hits over five innings with four walks and four strikeouts.

### Pirates 5, Athletics 0

In Pittsburgh, Francisco Liriano scattered four hits over seven innings, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Oakland Athletics.

Liriano (9-3) struck out six and walked one. He trimmed his ERA to 2.00 as the Pirates snapped a four-game losing streak. Pedro Alvarez went 2 for 4 and drove in two runs for Pittsburgh. Andrew McCutchen, Starling Marte and Jose Tabata also had two hits each as the Pirates beat Oakland for the first time ever.

## Cardinals 5, Astros 4

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter hit a two-run home run and Matt Holliday drove in two with a two-out hit to help the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Houston Astros.

Carpenter's ninth homer of the season in the seventh gave the win to Seth Maness (5-1). Tony Cruz got hit by starter Jordan Lyles' first pitch of the inning and one out later Carpenter put a 2-1 pitch into the right field stands off reliever Wesley Wright (0-3).

Maness gave up two hits and a run in two innings of relief. He struck out three.

## Angels 13, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Josh Hamilton hit two home runs, Albert Pujols also connected and the Los Angeles went deep a season-high five times in a rout of the Chicago Cubs.

Mark Trumbo and Brendan Harris also homered for the Angels. Hamilton drove in five runs and Pujols drove in three.

All of the Angels' home runs were no-doubters. They hit a pair during a five-run first inning and then followed with three more in a six-run fifth, providing more than enough support for C.J. Wilson (9-6).



## Bridge Capital, LLC Half Marathon on July 21



the road of Saipan this month with the staging of the

2013 Bridge Capital, LLC Half Marathon.

Tri Saipan headed by Brad Ruszala is organizing the event, which will also feature 5K and 10K runs and bike races with all competitions starting at Micro Beach. Check-in time for half marathon is at 5am and the race begins at 6am, while show time

Brad Ruszala, seen here on his way to the finish line of the 2013 Saipan Marathon, is organizing the 2013 Bridge Capital, LLC Half Marathon that will hit the road on July 21.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



for the two other run races is set for 5:30am with a start time at 6:30am. The bike event kicks off at 7am. Registration fees are only \$10.

The half marathon course will have the turn around point just past FEBC Road in Marpi, while the 10K and 5K are at southern Tanapag and Bank of Hawaii, respectively.

For the bike races, the road bike course is from Micro Beach to Bird Island Lookout and back. For the MTB race, riders must go straight up Navy Hill, turn right on Tapochau Dr, turn right on Waserak Road, turn right on Captive Way, turn right into the single-track Lamar section of the XTERRA Saipan

course, and turn left onto Navy Hill Road before returning to the start/finish line.

Medals will be awarded to the Top 3 male and female finishers of each races. Raffle prizes from event sponsors Pacific Islands Club, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center, IT&E, Duty Free Shoppers Saipan, Athlete's Foot, and All-Star Sporting Goods will also be handed out after the races. Participants can also win free entries to PIC Half Marathon in November, the 2014 Tagaman, and upcoming Tri Saipan events.

For additional information, call Tri Saipan at 285-4TRI or visit and like its Facebook page www.facebook.com/TriSaipan. (Saipan Tribune)

## MONT-SAINTMICHEL, France (AP)— Going derror Froome now almost unbeatable at Tour de France



Going down a

row of television cameras, answering one question after another, the wearer of the Tour de France's yellow jersey never veered off message. Yes, said Chris Froome, he was delighted to have increased his race lead with a super-fast ride in the time trial. But, no, he added, the Tour isn't over yet because the road to Paris is still long.

Froome is right about the long part—Paris is still 1,661 kilometers (1,032 miles) away.

dium on the Champs-Elysees on July 21, then he is part of a quickly shrinking minority. After Wednesday's time trial race against the clock to the medieval abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel—among most beautiful backdrops ever visited by the 110-year-old Tour-the Briton has a lead that now appears unassailable.

Looking like spacemen in their aerodynamic teardropshaped helmets and riding special go-fast bikes to better Avranches, which the forces of U.S. Gen. George S. Patton liberated in World War II.

Froome, as race leader, set out last. His skin-tight racing suit was yellow, so was his saddle, parts of his bike frame and a thick stripe down the middle of his otherwise black helmet. He puffed out his cheeks and licked his lips. The race starter held up five fingers and counted down. When the fingers were folded away, Froome raced

off, powering past crowds several rows deep.

Through a patchwork of fields green and gold he rode. Through tidal marshlands where sheep graze, giving their meat a tang of saltiness from the sea. Through picturepostcard villages of cottages built of dark granite.

Not that he noticed.

"During the race, you can't really take any of that in at all," he said. "You go into tunnel vision, and it's just a blur of noise and color around you."

But with each push on his pedals, Froome's lead over his rivals grew.

By the end, with Mont-Saint-Michel rising majestically in front of him from an islet off the Brittany coast, Froome wasn't far from catching Alejandro Valverde, even though the Spaniard set off three minutes earlier than him from Avranches.

As Valverde was crossing the line in front of the abbey called the "Wonder of the West," the crowds could already be heard cheering for Froome, who zoomed in just one minute later.

Although Valverde is still

Froome's closest rival, it's really no longer close. Froome's lead over the Spaniard more than doubled to 3 minutes, 25 seconds. At the Tour, that might as well be light years. Froome would have to crash, suffer some other mishap or get sick and melt down on the towering Mont Ventoux and in the Alps next week for his rivals to catch him.

"Once we get into the Alps, there's a run of a few days, back to back, which are going to be very hard," he said. "I'm sure other teams are really going to test us."

## CNMI

From Page 32

a great block. Clay had some great digs and played great defense. They read the plays well and had good court position, solid serving, and good ball placement over the net against tall Austrian players. They really came in mentally strong against Austria, bouncing back from yesterday afternoon's matches," CNMI coach Russ Quinn was quoted as saying in an email Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough sent to Saipan Tribune last Wednesday evening.

Quinn was talking of Mc-Cullough-Stearns and Nekaifes' back-to-back losses last Tuesday against Czech Republic and Oman. The CNMI duo first faced the Czech Republic's Robert Kufa and Jan Handrava and struggled a lot in the 2-21, 6-21 loss.

According to Quinn, his wards were a little nervous in their first game against one of the European teams in the competition. Kufa and Handrava stand 6'4" and 6'6", respectively, and are veterans of competitions around the world.

The CNMI Team, which is the smallest squad (less than 6 feet tall) in the beach volleyball competition faced the Czech Republic in a morning match and returned to the sand court late in the afternoon to challenge Oman's Ahmad Al Housni and Haitham Al Shureiqi, who both stand about 6'4". After getting several hours of rest and shaking off rookie jitters, McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes got off to a good start against Oman and even forced a deadlock before a storm stopped the CNMI bets' momentum.

"They fell a little flat on their game and the gap started widening. The storm came up in the middle, blowing over barriers and umbrellas and causing delavs to the game. Winds were probably 25-30 mph at times as

dark stormy skies blew in. They ended up losing 6-21, 8-21," Janet McCullough said.

With a 0-2 record in Day 2 of the tournament, the CNMI players were pressed to win against Austria to avoid elimination. Only the Top 3 teams in each of the eight pools will advance to the second round. McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes went on to lose the important match, but managed to keep up with the Austrian pair in the early goings of the first and second set.

Former volleyball coach and CNMI Hall of Famer Kurt Barnes, who watched the live streaming of the games online, said the Commonwealth bets tied Austria at one time in the second set, 5-all. After watching all three games, he concluded that McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes played fairly well against Austria.

With the CNMI dropping all its three games in pool play, it was relegated to the consolation group and is expected to play a

couple of more games. Quinn believes the remaining matches are still beneficial to Mc-Cullough-Stearns and Nekaifes, as they get to experience more high-level competition even against teams that have also been eliminated. There are 32 squads in the men's field and most of them have played in prestigious events like the Olympics, world championships, AVP Pro Tour, European Tours, and past University Games.

"They are older, much experienced, and very tall. One Russian player is about seven feet tall. Their international experience is extensive," Quinn said.

"The level of play here is very high. Will Montgomery and Tri Bourne are one of two American teams (they are the top U.S. top here) and they barely won their first two matches. Will is also one of the shorter players. The other U.S. team lost its first two and faces elimination today," Janet McCullough added.

Registration for next month's TOC is ongoing at \$185 per player. Entry forms are available at Laolao Bay and DFS Galleria and they could also be downloaded at www.tocsaipan. com. For more information, contact Marida at 236-2530.

## MAPLAS From Page 32

make the go-ahead field goal, but its multiple shots fell to fall. Ballaholics made at three attempts inside and muffed all of them, but had still got a chance to win the game when Treat Kaipat was fouled on his way for another putback with no time left on the clock. However, Kaipat succumbed to the pressure and faltered from the

15-foot line twice, awarding

Maplas the win.

Maplas and Ballaholics had a low-scoring game, as players from both camps showed some rust due to several weeks of break from hardcourt action. Maplas was a bit fortunate though, as Nate Mateo made a couple of baskets early and scored 7 points to lift the team to an 18-13 lead. Maplas went on to keep the driver's seat at the end of each quarter, but Ballaholics stayed within striking distance and even grabbed the lead a couple of times in the final canto before falling short in the end.

Mateo paced Maplas with his 17 points, while Mendoza added 11. Derrick Rangamar had 18 markers for Ballaholics.

In the second game, the San Antonio Slashers outgunned the Snipers, 82-47.

The one-sided match seemed to be over right at the end of the first period, as San Antonio erected a promising 24-7 advantage. By halftime, San An-

tonio's lead ballooned to 25 and even went up to as high as 38 points in the third, as the Snipers came to the game without enough ammunition to counter their foe's offensive attack.

Only Melvin Capalad scored in twin digits for the Snipers with his 12 points, while San Antonio drew 14 markers apiece from J.P. Villanueva and Dexter Tenorio and 13 from Bryle Alegre.

Villanueva dropped 7 of his total points in the opening canto to match the entire output of the Snipers, while Tenorio and Alegre chipped in 6 apiece to set up San Antonio's early breakaway.

## First Game

Maplas 64—Mateo 17, Mendoza 11, Pangelinan 8, Morales 6, Ocampo 6, Surla 3, Odicta 2, Rivera 2.

Ballaholics 63— Rangamar 18, Pena 9, Imperial 8, Taisacan 6, R. Saralu 6, J. Sablan 4, Kaipat 3, N. Saralu 3, B. Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 35-34, 49-44, 64-63.

## **Second Game**

San Antonio Slashers 82— Villanueva 14, Tenorio 14, Alegre 13, Barrios 7, Mungcal 5. Dela Rama 4. M. David 2. N. David 2, S. Quemado 2.

Snipers 47 — Capalad 12, F. Remilloza 6, Lagado 5, Castro 4, Sandic 4, Olfindo 3, Manipon 2, Ramos 2, Alano 2, R. Remi-

Scoring by quarters: 24-7, 45-20, 66-30, 82-47.

## **DEFENDING**

From Page 32

with her five and aims to extend her reign in the Ladies Low Gross category next month. Kim notched her first title in 2006, ending the five-year reign of veteran Noriko Togawa, the winningest participant in TOC with nine victories (1996, 1998, and 1999, 20012005, and 2008).

The former junior golfer earned her second crown in 2007 and then dominated the last three tournaments (2010-2012). Kim's latest win was the most impressive one, as her two-day total of 1-over par 145 (73 and 72) topped the entire field and she ran away with a 12-shot victory Jeong Yoon Kim. The five-time champion will compete in this year's

TOC as the heavy favorite after an outstanding debut in the collegiate ranks. The Colorado State University-Pueblo student won the Rookie of the Year and Golfer of the Year awards in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, a collegiate athletic conference that participates in NCAA Division II.

"This is going to be a very exciting tournament with majority of our defending champions back to compete against golfers from Guam, Japan, Korea, and our local players,' Babauta said.

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## Flag Ceremony at 27th Summer Universiade

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



▲ The CNMI flag is about to be raised during the flag ceremony for the 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan, Russia.



▲ Clay McCullough-Stearns and John Nekaifes pose with the performers at the flag ceremony.



 $\ \blacktriangle$  Performers entertain guests at the flag ceremony.



▲ Volunteers line up before the start of the ceremony.



▲ NMASA president Michael White, left, enjoys a light moment with CNMI beach volleyball coach Russ Quinn after the ceremony.





▲ Performers offer local food during the flag ceremony.





 $\ \, \blacktriangle \,$  A volunteer carries the torch on his way to the venue of the flag ceremony.









## CNMI spikers show best form vs Austria



## Defending champions are back for TOC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Three defending champions have already confirmed their participation

in the 18th Annual Tournament of Champions that will hit the greens of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Aug. 3 and 4.

According to TOC chair Ben Babauta, Barry Wilson called him all the way from Florida a few weeks ago to confirm a return trip to Saipan. Wilson will be out to defend the Senior Flight title in the premier golf tournament on the island and is aiming for his third championship after ruling the last two competitions in his age group. Wilson debuted in TOC in 2011 and pulled off a one-shot win

Leina Kim, seen here posing for TAGA Sports' cover, will be defending her Ladies Low Gross title in next month's 8th Annual Tournament of Champions.



over Tadashi Umezawa, firing a two-day total of 155 (75 and 80). Then last year, the visiting golfer made it two in a row after beating Federico Flores. This time, Wilson took a three-stroke win after carding a 76 and 77 in the first and second round against the 78s of Flores.

Championship Flight defending champion Louie Sunga also won last year's tournament by three strokes and according to Babauta, the Guam golfer will be back next month to gain his third straight title and fifth in the last eight stagings of TOC. Last year, Sunga tamed the west course of Laolay Bay with a 1-under par 71 in Day 1 and then posted a 2-over par 74 on the east in Day 2 for a gross 145. He beat the 148 of Jong Hoon Park to bag back-to-back titles and fourth overall, as the Guam golfer also topped the 2008 and 2009 editions of the annual event.

Saipan's very own Leina Kim owns more titles than Sunga See DEFENDING on Page 30 roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com

CNMI's Clay Mc-Cullough-Stearns and John Nekaifes saved their best for last in the beach volleyball competition of the 27th Summer Universiade in Kasan, Russia.



The two Commonwealth spikers dueled Austria in their final game in Pool D last Wednesday at the Kazanka Beach Volleyball Centre in Kazanka River Embankment and got the most points in their third match in the elimination round. The CNMI bets earned 18 points in their 7-21, 11-21 loss to heavily favored Austrians Tobias Koraimann and Florian Schnetzer.

"Clay and John played the Austrian No. 2 team today (last Wednesday). They played their best in the tournament against the veteran Austrian team. Clay had a few more blocks and John had

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## Maplas nips Ballaholics; San Antonio wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Maplas eked out a 64-63 victory over Ballaholics

in the first game in the 2013 DL Corporation Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Thanks to Ballaholics' botched follow-up shots in the closing seconds and two missed free throws, Maplas managed to win its debut in the 14-team field.

A basket from Edmark Mendoza inside the paint put Maplas on top and Ballaholics was left with plenty of seconds to

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San Antonio Slashers' Sandy Quemado pulls up for a shot against the Snipers' Fred Remilloza during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.